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WARRIOR WARREN HONOURED

The FIFA Centennial Order of Merit medal by FIFA presented to Johnny Warren

Images shown between FIFA President Sepp Blatter and Australian Socceroo Legend Johnny Warren during last week's medal ceremony. (Photos by Carlos Furtado)

Former Socceroo captain Johnny Warren has been honoured for his service to Australian soccer when he was presented with the FIFA Centennial Order of Merit by FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter in Sydney last Friday.

On 21 May 2004 Soccer's world governing body FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) celebrated its 100th birthday. During the centenerary year one person within each of FIFA's 204 members associations is being presented with the FIFA Centennial Order of Merit.

Johnny Warren has been recognized for his broad-ranging contribution to Australian soccer as a player, coach, administrator and media commentator.

Australian Soccer Association CEO John O'Neill said of Johnny Warren "Despite having been retired from the game as a player for nearly three decades, Johnny is one of the most well-known soccer personalities in Australia. His passion and commitment for the advancement of the Australian game is virtually without peer".

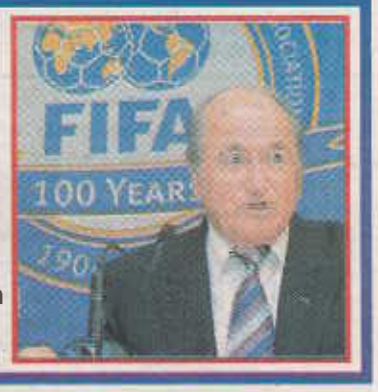
Currently fighting his battle against cancer, the whole Australian soccer family has been behind Johnny all the way in wishing for the former Socceroo skipper's best recovery.

ABSW's Italian correspondent and radio 98.5 FM presenter Joe Russo was present at the Sheraton in Sydney last week and conducted a special piece on Warren's special award and the ceremony itself.

Read on Page 3 for more news on this story.

Should Blatter be trusted?

ABSW editor Mark Stavroulakis writes on page 2 whether Sepp Blatter's words on Oceania's direct qualification in 2010 should be believed



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ON PAGES P14 & 15

VENABLES GOES AUSSIE

MOORE A TRUE BLUE

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BY Mark Stavroulakis & Daniel Kuziow

Craig Moore has been stripped of the Rangers captaincy and placed on the transfer list.

Moore and Gers chief Alex McLeish clashed at the end of last season, with the Australian courting controversy when saying he wanted the club to match his ambition or he would look to move on.

Moore this week also declared himself available represent his country at the Olympics meaning he would miss the start of the season.

That move brought the long running feud between the two to a head with McLeish telling the club's official website; "Both myself and Craig have had a discussion regarding his current situation at Ibrox and his desire to play for his country in the forthcoming Olympics."

"Each of us have our own objectives and I have decided to appoint a new captain for season 2004/2005 which I will announce imminently with such important matches at the start of our season.

"Both Craig and I have jointly agreed that the interests of Rangers FC are the priority and therefore he will relinquish the captaincy.

"The club will now make Craig available for transfer at the correct fee."

★ ★ ★ ★

Former Parramatta Power star Simon Colosimo is set to be unveiled as a new signing by Swiss outfit FC Zurich.

Colosimo has been training with Zurich for over a week and took part in a full-blown intra-club game over the weekend, which was specifically organised for club management to run the rule over the 25 year-old.

The out-of-contract Parramatta Power playmaker was played in his favourite position in the centre of midfield and did enough to impress coaching staff.

Tribalfootball.com understands Colosimo is set to put pen to paper on a long-term, four-year deal at Zurich - possibly this week.

The former Manchester City and Royal Antwerp player had trials at Ancona at the end of last season and is aiming to relaunch his European career in Switzerland this term.

Ancona were the club that could have signed Colosimo however a last minute glitch took that away from the Melbourne born star.

★ ★ ★ ★

Australia coach Frank Farina has confirmed Rangers have requested to withdraw Craig Moore from being considered for the Athens Games squad.

He told the *Evening Times*: "Rangers have been the first club to put in a request to withdraw a player. "We sent out letters to a number of clubs about player selection and Rangers have done what I expect most other clubs will do in the next week or so.

"But we will inform Alex McLeish, and anyone else who asks, that unless the club release

Signed and sealed - Mark Viduka shown in his new kit with Middlesborough

Moore, Fifa regulations will be invoked which will ban him from playing for Rangers during the Olympic tournament."

★ ★ ★ ★

Aussie midfielder Gareth Edds has made history - becoming the Milton Keynes Dons' first ever signing.

MK Dons changed their name from Wimbledon at the end of last season and were quick to snap up 23 year-old Edds, who was released by cash-strapped Bradford City over the summer. Along with the capture of Edds, the Dons are paraded their new kit, club badge and sponsors.

★ ★ ★ ★

Leicester new-boy Danny Tiatto decided to join Micky Adams' side after speaking with former Manchester City team-mate Paul Dickov.

"I knew before the end of last season that I would not be signing for Manchester City and began looking around," Tiatto told the Leicester Mercury.

"Leicester showed interest in me and, as soon as I found that out, I was very excited. I spoke to Paul about it and he had a lot of nice things to say about the club and what a good set-up it is.

"He said I would enjoy myself here, they are a good bunch of lads and a great coaching staff. So I actually made my mind up straight away to come here."

★ ★ ★ ★

Reading have offered a trial to Australian goalkeeper Liam Reddy.

The 22-year-old has joined the Royals for pre-season training from his current club Sydney United. Reading boss Steve Coppell has been forced to look for goalkeeping cover following the departure of Jamie Ashdown to Portsmouth.

Reading coach Nick Hammond, who recommended Reddy to Steve Coppell, told the club's website: "We'll take a good look at Liam in the next couple of weeks and it's a good chance for him. "It's too early for me to comment any more, but I'm looking forward to working with him."

Tim Cahill has made the move from Millwall to Crystal Palce this season

★ ★ ★ ★

Yeovil Town boss Gary Johnson has doubled his Aussie contingent inside a week after signing Queenslander Scott Guyett on Monday.

The experienced centre-half penned a two-year deal with the Glovers after joining the League Two club on a Bosman from Chester City. Guyett joins countryman Adrian Caceres at Yeovil for the new season.

Guyett told the Western Press: "I was at Chester for two years and had a great time there. "But when the opportunity came up to come down here I felt the time was right for a new challenge.

"Now that I have signed here, it would be great to get into League One. Yeovil are a great footballing side and hopefully they will improve on last year. "There is no point being content with the League Two, we want to go up."

★ ★ ★ ★

Out of contract Parramatta Power speed-star Ahmad Elrich is currently in Korea and could be signing a deal with a K-League side very soon.

The current Olyroos star is said to have attracted a number of Korean sides who financially are very stable.

Elrich has been noted as one of Australia's best young talents and it was only time until an overseas club was said to have picked up on his performances.

★ ★ ★ ★

Hearts defender Patrick Kisnorbo left Melbourne for Edinburgh last week determined to build on last season's personal success.

Kisnorbo was granted an extra week's leave by Hearts boss Craig Levein to get over a long-standing groin injury and is grateful to have been able to rest his body over the past three weeks after a hectic summer with Australia's national team.

"I'm looking forward to be back with the Hearts lads and getting stuck into training after a decent break," Kisnorbo told tribalfootball.com.

"I feel great! The gaffer told me to put my feet up and not go near a football for a week just to let my body relax. Now I'm itching to get back into it".

Liam Reddy will be on trial with English side Reading

Kisnorbo was informed over the weekend by Australian SA management that he was out of Frank Farina's Olympic Games squad, but was philosophical over his omission.

"Obviously I'm disappointed to not be going to Athens," Kisnorbo admitted. "But I can understand the reasoning as I didn't go to the Swiss camp. That decision was made on medical advice and I wasn't prepared to risk long-term injury by pushing my body beyond its limits. "The management at ASA wished me good luck this season and told me I'd be considered for next year's internationals, so that's nice to hear."

★ ★ ★ ★

Former Parramatta Power midfielder Peter Zorbas could be heading towards the Polish First Division with Legia Warsaw, or so it was said in one of Australia's Greek newspapers last week.

The energetic midfielder, currently holidaying in Portugal and had the pleasure of watching every Greek match on hand, including the final, was said to have been in talks with a Polish first division side.

Sydney Olympic have been rumoured to have shown a keen interest in Zorbas who once donned the Blue and White jersey before his move to the Power.

Zorbas arrives this week from Portugal and it will be in these next few weeks, the former electrician will learn his fate on which side he will be playing for.

★ ★ ★ ★

Marconi custodian Stacy Alogdellis could be making the trek overseas very soon after the big shot-stopper stated that a few interests have poured in from England.

The Marconi number two, currently out of contract with the club, wants to hopefully break into a squad overseas that will fulfil his childhood dream of playing abroad.

Walsall have been the club keen on getting Stacy on trial for a few weeks.

★ ★ ★ ★

Millwall's highly-rated Australia midfielder Tim Cahill has netted a move to Premier League side Crystal Palace ending speculation that he was to stay at his old club.

Prior to the attacking midfielder's departure from Oz, Cahill did state that six clubs were keen on signing him..

The 24-year-old, who netted the match-winning goal for the Lions in their FA Cup semi-final against Sunderland at Old Trafford in April, has yet to agree personal terms and pass a medical, but it is a positive move by last season's First Division play-off winners.

'Tim is a fine player and has been a great servant to Millwall over the past seven years, but has increasingly made us aware of his desire to move on,' reflected Lions' chairman Theo Paphitis on the official club website.

'We believe he could have realised his dreams of Premiership football at Millwall, but clearly that is not something we can offer him this season.'

★ ★ ★ ★

Australian international striker Mark Viduka completed a 4.5 million pound (US$8.33 mi lion) move from relegated Leeds United to premier league Middlesborough on Thursday.

The 28-year-old former Celtic forward was unveiled by the League Cup holders at a media conference after signing a three-year contract with a one-year option.

Viduka is aiming to reproduce form that saw him score 59 goals in 126 league starts for Leeds after a six-million-pound (US$10.91 million) move from Celtic in 2000.

The Australian, who helped the Yorkshire club reach the Champions League semi-finals three years ago, reckons Boro could also qualify for Europe's top club competition.

"I think Middlesborough should be aiming for a Champions League spot and that's why I came here because I think we can do it with the players we have," Viduka told reporters at Boro's Rockliffe Park training complex.

"There is a really good buzz around this place and I sense there are good times ahead for this football club. We should be looking at the top six at least.

"Looking from the sidelines last year, their defensive record was almost second to none, the team created a lot of chances and I think the only thing missing was that finishing touch.

"The next three years of my career are the most important and I really want to win something, both personally and for the team. I would really love us to achieve something here."

Brave Warren honoured

Australian legend Johnny Warren honoured by FIFA President Sepp Blatter (Photo by Carlos Furtado)

By Joe Russo

At Sydney's luxurious Sheraton on the Park Hotel Australian soccer legend, Johnny Warren, was awarded FIFA's Centennial Medal of Honour last Friday before a packed media present to cover the special event.

FIFA President, Joseph S. Blatter, was on hand to present Warren the Centennial Medal of Honour. Blatter and a FIFA delegation were transiting in Sydney on their way to Vanuatu for the Oceania Football Conference.

Johnny Warren received the game's highest honour in FIFA's centennial year (FIFA was founded on May 21, 1904) for his 56 years service to soccer in Australia.

A frail looking Warren, because of his recent bout of pneumonia, was clearly overwhelmed by the award. His lovely partner, older brother and elderly mother accompanied him for the special occasion. He told the gathered media what it meant for him to receive such recognition.

"This is an overwhelming honour," the former Socceroo captain said. "I thank FIFA for the fabulous honour and I would like to thank all those people who have been part of that journey with me.

"I started playing as a 5 year old, I am now 61 which is 56 years. I thank all those people, particularly my family, the people in the football community who have been absolutely fabulous to me and I have to mention SBS, Les [Murray] and the people there over 23 years.

"SBS has played a phenomenal role in the development of football and I thank them."

During FIFA's centenary year one person from each of FIFA's 204 member countries will receive the Centennial Order of Merit. It is fitting that Johnny Warren should receive that award in Australia.

Others to receive the award include greats such as Johan Cruyff, Eusebio, Ferenc Puskas and Sir Stanley Rous. Pele' and Franz Beckenbauer each received special awards nominated by FIFA for their services as a 'player and football personality'.

Warren's achievements in soccer in Australia are well documented. He was heavily involved in Australia's 1970 and 1974 World Cup campaigns, the latter of course being our only World Cup appearance to date.

He made 42 A International appearances for Australia from 1965 to 1974 and was captain for seven of those years. However, it was his early years that Warren recounted with great passion. He told of the discrimination against soccer and the difficulties faced by many in getting this great game accepted in mainstream Australia.

"When we started football wasn't a big sport in this country," he said. "We had champions in cricket, tennis, golf, athletics and swimming and we did all those things as kids. Cricket was my sport and football was another thing we did.

"Every year after I started to play I gradually fell in love with this great game.

"I felt it at High School when I started to mix with people. Suddenly my mates were calling me 'wog Warren'. I felt that discrimination and it built in me something.

"I was blessed all my football life with meeting people at the crossroads. I was made national captain at 23 and I tried to use that position to fight that discrimination, to get even my mates to accept this game which is the passion of all the countries.

Johnny Warren's services to soccer have also been recognised in the past. In 1973 he became the first soccer person in Australia to be presented with an MBE. In 1988 he was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame along with 199 other inaugural inductees. He was recently amongst the Queen's Birthday Honours List and received the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Warren spoke passionately about his vision for Australian soccer in the future. As always he was not afraid to share his dreams with the gathered audience.

"I want Australia to embrace this fabulous game. The beautiful thing right now is that it is going to happen," he said. "We are already the biggest sport and what converted it was the last World Cup [Korea/Japan 2002].

"That World Cup was in our time and people said a lot of things: 'why aren't we there?' and 'why can't we stage it?' I am sick of us saying 'when are we going to qualify for the World Cup?'

"The question I pose to you today is 'when are we going to win the World Cup?' Call me a dreamer but Turkey was third. Korea and Japan never laid a glove on Australia in 20 years and Korea finished fourth. Look at Senegal, one of the poorest countries in the world, Mexico, USA and Greece winning the European Championships.

"The message from the World Cup and Euro 2004 is that the days of the teams of champions are over – it is about champion teams and there is a huge message there for Australia."

Australian Soccer Association CEO, John O'Neill, praised Johnny Warren for his contribution to soccer in Australia. "Johnny is one of the most well-known soccer personalities in Australia," he said.

ABSW takes this opportunity to congratulate Johnny Warren on receiving FIFA's Centennial Medal of Honour and wishes him all the very best as he continues his brave fight against cancer – best of wishes Johnny from the entire *ABSW* Crew.

Soccer NSW to vote on New team

Soccer NSW stakeholders will have the chance to consider the Bid for the Sydney licence in the New National Competition at a General Meeting set for early August.

The Board of Soccer NSW passed a resolution at its meeting of 1 July to call a General Meeting, reconfirming its previous commitment to directly consult the members.

Vice-President Jim Forrest said the Board agreed that the required information for a properly informed decision by members could not be available until after 19 July, the deadline for formal bids to be lodged with the ASA. This is because of a lack of information in critical areas from ASA.

To that extent the 19 July deadline set by ASA has to be seen as "in principle" or "subject to" only.

However, the Board agreed that a General Meeting will be called for early August, to allow time for full information to be collected and circulated to members. This process would have to be completed, and a decision reached, before ASA is ready to make any announcement later in August.

Soccer NSW President, Mr Tom Doumanis said the proposed Sydney team would rely on member support if it were to be successful, so it was essential for the membership to approve the bid at a General Meeting.

"Our view is that the Sydney team in the New National Competition must have the affinity and the affection of the soccer family if it is to prosper," said Mr Doumanis.

"That connection between the grassroots and the professional level was a missing link in the old NSL. Soccer NSW believes it's absolutely essential to establish the connection if Australia is to have a vibrant and sustainable national league.

Soccer NSW expressed interest in being a part of the New National Competition after the ASA encouraged State & Territory soccer federations to be involved.

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Can we trust Blatter?

Can we trust FIFA President Sepp Blatter in his renewed statement that Oceania would be granted direct access towards the 2010 World Cup?

By Mark Stavroulakis

Upon his stop off from the Oceania Football Confederation meeting in Vanuatu last Saturday, FIFA President Sepp Blatter was in town and had the pleasure of honouring one Australia's legends of the game Johnny Warren.

Warren was presented the FIFA Centennial Order of Merit by Blatter that was meant by cheers and smiles amongst the strong media crowd that gathered in Sydney.

One moment away from the feats of Warren however was obviously still ringing in the heads of many people during that eventful day.

A year ago, Blatter made Oceania the laughing stock of the world after firstly announcing that a direct spot was to be allocated for the region only to up-end his decision and declare that the spot would be taken away from them.

World soccer boss Sepp again renewed is promise that we were to gain automatic entry into the 2010 World Cup – but the question on everyone's mind was, should we believe him?

18 months, FIFA overturned the decision and now this was set through by the man that made that damaging statement.

Most football followers believed that such an event, to be awarded direct qualification, would have pumped a heap of money and major sponsors into our game.

What better time to also have had that opportunity to have that automatic birth with a new era in Australian soccer set to take the major spotlight next year.

But this was all hogwash thanks to that bleak and dark day 18 months ago in Zurich.

We will just have to wait and see whether the blanket will be pulled amongst the whole eyes of the Oceania region again.

One positive move that was stated during the meeting was the fact that the FIFA President supported Australia's move in hosting either the 2018 or 2022 World Cup.

The achievements of how well run the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and last year's Rugby Union Cup were the telling points behind his remarks on Australia hosting football's holy grail.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers Empoli Youth Academy

Under 20s Trials

The above club is currently seeking players for the 2004/2005 Under 20s A.P.I.A. Leichhardt — Empoli Football Academy squad.

The Academy squad will compete in this coming summer's revamped and elite Under 20s NSW Premier League competition.

The team will also participate in the prestigious 57th Annual Viareggio Tournament in Italy in January 2005.

Trial dates are as follows:

- **Monday 12th & Wednesday 14th July**
- **Monday 19th & Wednesday 21st July**
- **Monday 26th & Wednesday 28th July**
- **Monday 2nd & Wednesday 4th August**

All trials will begin at 6.30pm at Lambert Park — Marion Street, Leichhardt. Players must arrive by 5.45pm.

For further information call John Romeo, Technical Director
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt — Empoli Youth Football Academy on 0412-808-114.

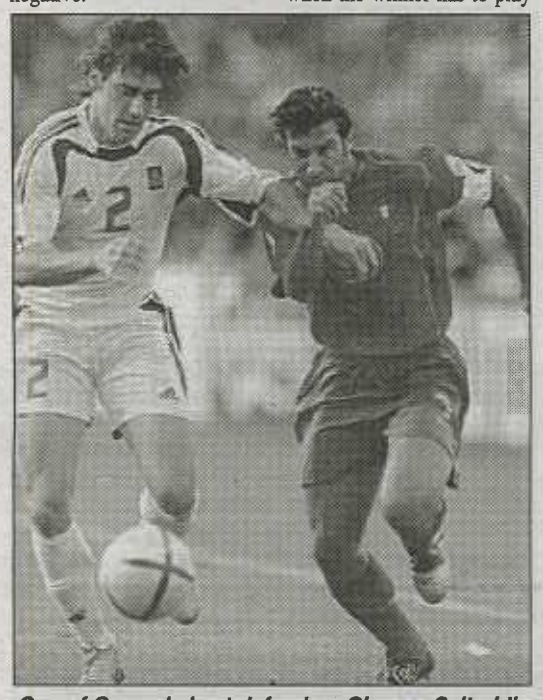
Your Serie A dream may only be one phone call away!

Was this the worst European championship ever?

Comment
By Roy Hay

After the brilliant hosting of the tournament by the Portuguese, the fairytale victory of the Greeks and the glorious uncertainty of outcomes which saw all the pre-tournament favourites eliminated, it seems churlish to describe Euro 2004 as the worst ever.

But I wonder what we will remember about this tournament in a few years time? In the short run the tactical effect of the tournament on the development of the game is likely to be essentially negative.



One of Greece's best defenders Giorgos Seitaridis goes head to head with Portugal's Luis Figo during this year's Euro final.

Previous tournaments have thrown up glorious moments which stick in the memory. There was Marco van Basten's wonderful volley for Holland against Russia in the final in 1988, recently voted the best goal of all in European championships, Paul Gascoigne's outrageous effort against Scotland in Euro 96 in England, and Davor Suker's delicious chip over Peter Schmeichel in the same tournament.

Euro 2000 in Holland and Belgium was graced by the performances of Zinedine Zidane and his French confreres and a very unlucky Italian team and stunning late revivals by France against Portugal and Italy.

That tournament got off to a cracking start when England led Portugal two-nil only to be destroyed by some magic from Louis Figo and his mates.

In 1992 Denmark was only allowed to take part at the last minute, because of the removal of Yugoslavia, but went on to win the title beating Germany in the final. This was the biggest upset until this year's Greek victory.

Apart from one see-sawing game between the Czech Republic and Holland, which was heavily influenced by the decision to send off a Dutch player when they were leading two-one, and the heart-stopping lottery of the penalty shoot-outs between Portugal and England, and Holland and Sweden, the overwhelming impression of Euro 2004 is the poor quality of many matches and the fact the superstars failed to shine.

Then there is the evidence that in a short tournament when the winner has to play only six games, disciplined organisation, ferocious man-marking and negative strategies, allied with quick breakaways and set-pieces can win titles.

It is the equivalent of flooding and tagging in Australian Rules.

Imagine this happening every week in league matches. It would drive the crowds away in droves.

There were some positives of course. The emergence of Wayne Rooney as a goalscoring star at international level, the scintillating forward play of Christiano Ronaldo, the demonstration that Pavel Nedved is worthy of all the accolades and confirmation that Ricardo Carvalho is a brilliant defender, though he and his fellows could not stop the Charisteas's header in the final.

Giorgos Seitaridis, the Greek full back also had an excellent tournament.

The failure of the stars is often put down to the number of games they have to play in the regular season, which means they come into a summer tournament exhausted and often carrying chronic injuries.

Less often mentioned is the fact that many of them will have had to peak for league and cup deciders and Champions League or UEFA Cup matches in the weeks leading up to the tournament. It is hard in any sport to peak twice in such a short time.

It is generally agreed that the Italian, Spanish and English premier leagues are the strongest in Europe. Yet it is more than two decades since the national team from any of these countries won a major competition. The last was Italy's victory in the World Cup in 1982.

One reason for this is probably the number of foreign stars who now play for the top teams in each of these countries. This makes it extremely difficult for young domestic talent to gain the experience of playing at the top level in league-challenging positions or Champions League matches which increasingly set the standard required for performance at the highest level.

It is noticeable that many of the Greek players this year had that experience since the big three teams in Greece, Panathaniakos, Olympiakos and AEK are regulars in that competition.

Football fans want to see their teams winning, and it is often asserted that they don't care how this is done. An Australian colleague of Greek extraction said, 'I found the way the Greeks approached the tournament exciting.

The way they executed their tackles was brilliant and it's bloody hard to keep up that level of harassing and chasing for 90 minutes'. In the final Greece had one shot on goal, Portugal had ten. Greece won all three of its matches in knock-out phase by a goal to nil, with two of the goals coming from corner-kicks.

Goals headed in or bundled over the line from close range do not remain long in the memory. Greece made the most tackles in the tournament, had the most yellow cards, but also had a higher percentage of shots on target than any team except England.

So it is likely that some coaches will draw lessons from Euro 2004 that they have to be more pragmatic and defensive, relying on set pieces, quick breaks and pressure and frustration to achieve results.

That would be a very sad outcome of this championship.

'Doctor' Darcy knows best

What a brilliant month it has been for soccer skills coach and former Yugoslav international Dusan Purac.

ABSW recognized this man's wonderful touch with creating and developing players some years ago, but only now the Australian public has realized the potential Purac posses.

Only recently, Purac and his award winning soccer academy based in Manly Vale broke the headlines in mainstream publications across the nation after one of his pupils, 12-year-old Shervin Adeli was snapped up by German Bundesliga outfit Eintracht Frankfurt.

This by far has been recorded as one of the youngest ever Australian players to have transferred to an overseas club and Purac boasted that there could be more along the way.

Adeli learned the tricks of the trade under Purac's guidance at the Manly Vale based soccer school for the past six years.

Due to the recent surge of young pupils, Dusan has decided that a new venue would take place in order of teaching his new students the skills of the game.

One parent, Andrew Vezos of Castle Hill has taken his two kids Angelo and Peter and has never looked back since.

"Its been unbelievable for the kids, they really enjoy Dusan's training. The boys can't wait every Sunday's in getting onto that pitch in learning the skills of the game. It's a must for anyone wanting to see their kids pick up certain skills of the game from a true professional".

Dusan Purac shown with ...

Queens Park situated on Darley Road in the Eastern Suburbs will be Purac's new hunting ground for breeding rich young talent.

Known for his European sense of humour on and off the pitch, *ABSW* are proud to be staging a competition that could see five lucky kids receive free skills training for a month.

How to enter this competition?

Simple, looking at the photo above with Purac, name the youngster who at 22, represented the U17 Joeys and played in the National League with Sydney Olympic and Sydney United recently.

Purac has regarded this little 'Pele', as probably his best pupil yet.

Here's a clue, he wore the number 23 for Sydney United this year and his initials are A.D.

Send your answer via email on absw@foreign-language.com.au or call ABSW offices on Friday 16th July at 12PM sharp to be the first to win this wonderful competition.

IN BRIEF

Delay in ASA

The 5th of July was supposed to be the day the Australian football public where to see the final applications be processed therefore announcing which teams would possibly be the lucky eight to feature in the new national league next year.

ASA though have given it some extra time and have stated that the 19th of July will be the day everything will be brought out.

At the moment, 19 official bids have been accepted through ASA. It seems as though ASA CEO will get eight different clubs from eight different sections of Australia plus New Zealand.

In the same context, it is believed that the ASA are even closer now in announcing major sponsors for next years competition.

Hyundai, BarclayCard, Vodafone, Optus and McDonalds have all be rumoured to be jumping on board the round ball game here in Australia.

If this is true, finally, some advertisements that are worth selling something about the game. Its good to see advertising guru John Singleton doing what he is best known for and that is getting high corporate advertisements.

Markovski's plea to Fawkner

Known as probably one of the most prolific goal scorers of the National League era, former Preston Lions star John Markovski has stated that he will do what it takes to lead his Fawkner Blues side out of the doldrums.

Swapping the boots and shin pads for a spot on the bench, 'Jonesy' has relished his role as coach of the club.

Fawkner have had a rather awkward start to this year's Victorian Premier League season.

The club has seen two coaches come and go.

Fab Incantaloupo was the first to go from the Blues.

Former Brisbane Strikers assistant coach Luciano Trani then made the switch but midway through the year, Trani made the dash to rivals Whittlesea Stallions leaving Fawkner stranded.

In stepped in Markovski, a man capable of many things that could help rescue the club.

Since Markovski's arrival, a sudden change has seen Fawkner hit the high's of the Victorian league.

Although stuck near the bottom of the ladder, some impressive wins against key sides have proved to many spectators that 'Big bad John', means business.

The club recruited a number of ex-National League stars in their bid to win the league this year.

John Markovski currently coaching the Fawkner Blues

This all backfired, as the loss of two coaches at the start of the year did nothing to help promote their situation.

Recruiting ex-South Melbourne stars Vince Lia, Carl Recchia, Massimo Murdocca, while the Knights duo of Andrew Marth and Henry Fa'Arodo, the squad was more than capable of winning some silverware.

Youngsters Lia and Recchia have been in fine form for the Blues with the pair notching up goals and assists that have helped Fawkner in the points situation.

Let's not forget the attacking presence of Michael Ferrante who was once regarded as one of Australia's best young talents.

Ferrante has been the Blues' best player by far and his consistency in scoring will be needed if Fawkner are to survive the cull.

Markovski has had a tough time in getting to know his players from scratch but has the hopes that he can rescue the club from relegation and hopefully put some credibility back into the squad at C.B Smith Reserve.

So next time your wondering whatever happened to one of Australia's best strikers with a lethal left foot – look no further then the dugouts at Fawkner where you will see 'Jonesy' screaming his lungs out.

Farina must learn from King Otto

Socceroo coach Frank Farina (left) could take a few leaflets out of Greece's man of the moment coach Otto Rehhagel (right) in bringing up a nation from no-ones to Champions.

Comment
By Mark Stavroulakis

It's been over a week now and the signs are still clear, the Greeks will party on after their Euro finals win for the next four seasons.

Anyone that has witnessed the mass coverage the mighty Hellas side has been receiving would know that their unbelievable achievement will long be remembered as one of the greatest highs of world football.

Supporting a country with a population of an estimated 13 million, the picturesque Mediterranean nation famous for its Ancient ruins, Olive Oil, Kalamata Olives, party atmosphere, chain smoking and now the more recent soccer side's rise to fame, one must believe that our very own Australia must take down some key notes upon their success.

Since their induction into Europe, Greece has not been known as a formidable or fierce football side. This has been largely due to the facts that their domestic competition has been one of a four horse race for quite some time.

The 'Ethniki Katigoria' championship as it is known has always been fought out between Olympiakos, Panathinaikos, AEK Athens and PAOK Salonika.

A recent rise of Greek players venturing abroad to other European countries in search of a better competition has been one of a more common sight, thus their terrific performances in Portugal.

With the prestigious Euro trophy now sitting comfortably in the hands of the Greeks, reports of the league picking up this year have been rather stern.

Major sponsors have pooled in large amounts of money in kick starting the domestic league into that of a hopeful 'super league', as Greek Football President Vassilis Gagatsis stated.

All the hype surrounding the country has been thanks to the 11 Modern Gods that did their bits as well as the 11 other squad members in getting Greece on the map in terms of football.

One man however deserves all the credit – Greek coach Otto Rehhagel.

The 65-year-old master tactician was the driving force behind the Greek's chariot in guiding his squad over sides such as Portugal, Czech Republic and France.

A man known for his cool and calmness on the bench, his wholesale changes to a squad that before was filled with many ego's and superstars was all laid to rest.

Otto did something not one Greek coach could have possibly done as head coach of the side and that was destroying the 'clicks'.

What is meant by a 'click' you ask?

Every team in this world, whether it be domestic or international will have a full squad of players that will unfortunately not blend in with one another.

That is obviously life as not every player can get along with the whole squad however Greece had a stinging problem that players from each of the four leading clubs would simply not talk, pass or play for each other if they were called up for international duty.

Rehhagel's no nonsense coaching was more than enough to cease anything else happening after his appointment as head coach.

In the 3 years that Otto has run number one for the nation, the country has seen a different Greece in football.

A side that now will be feared from every nation in the world.

Bringing together a small squad but building team spirit, unity and determination of winning were the key roles in Otto's restructure.

Rehhagel's will to get his country play more friendly matches, test out various players in their trial periods, watch as many games as possible whether it was in Greece or overseas Greeks in Europe was what the German did.

His amazing efforts should not only have awarded him automatic citizenship with his newly adopted nation, but a Prime Ministerial role should have been put in place.

Anyone that can change the minds of any Greek when it came to performing as one in Football should be awarded more than just a medal.

Rehhagel realized one thing about his team and the nation itself; it sported its pride and heart amongst everything else.

A consistent side was a common theme for the Greeks with the team having almost the same line-up from the qualifiers to the tournament itself in Portugal.

One thing you may have noticed was the fact that Greece did not have a known player or players. We did not have a Harry Kewell or Mark Viduka that always grabbed the spotlight during any Socceroos match.

Greece had 11 warriors, who were hungry, eager and ready to put more than their bodies on the line in any match.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina has been caught in the same web Rehhagel was three years ago only he has had four years and counting to this day with only beating the likes of France and Brazil during the 2001 Confederations Cup in France as a main highlight.

Farina must pull through a German dictatorship style on his squad, one of a hardline presence that means that anyone that cannot represent the country for whatever reason should not be looked at.

Why must the Socceroos always wait on 3 or 4 players every time it plays friendly matches when really the nation supports well over 100 plus players abroad that could equally do the same if not a better job than our so called superstars.

Its apparent that the Greek formula of success did work to a tee thanks to the hands of the golden German, as for Farina, his time is almost up with qualification towards the 2006 World Cup in Germany as his driving force in drumming up some fame for the code in this sport.

Everyone so the mass parades that were experienced by the millions of Greeks back in their homeland after the country's huge win, can you imagine something like that in Australia?

I certainly could, Frank, you hold the key to success in your hands for football in this nation, let's get on with the job and hope that you can instil the motivation towards all your players in working towards gaining that final goal in football life – the road to the World Cup.

As for King Otto himself, the German has stated that he will honor his contract until the next World Cup with the Blues and hopefully will guide them towards Germany in 2006 with the possibility of meeting our very own Australia perhaps?

Wouldn't that be a sight!!!

OLYROO SQUAD SET TO IGNITE SURPRISES

By Ben Coonan

With the Athens Olympics a little over a month away, Australian coach Frank Farina is close to confirming his 18-man squad for the 16-team tournament that will pit the worlds best under 23 talent against each other.

In what will be his first tilt at Olympic glory as a coach, Farina will be keen to eradicate Australia's recent showings on the Olympic stage, after the Olyroos stumbled at the first hurdle in Atlanta 1996, and Sydney 2000.

The general feeling from Australia,s soccer punditry is that the current crop of youths at Farina's disposal is a shade weaker than what has been available previously.

Thus far, the Athens 2004, edition of the Olyroos has been viewed with doubt and scepticism from the Australian media, but that is not to say that Farina has not got reputable talent to choose from.

In goals, Farina has experimented with three 'keepers' in the under 23's qualification campaign and lead up matches.

Unquestionably, the favourite for the number one jersey is Mark Schwarzer's Middlesborough understudy Brad Jones.

Having snubbed January's Oceania qualification campaign to focus on his club commitments in England, Jones has since shown the pedigree necessary to warrant the tag as top Olyroo custodian.

National league regulars Eugene Galekovic of South Melbourne and Michael Turnbull of Marconi are likely to tussle for the role of reserve goalkeeper, with Galekovic favourite due to his hefty role in January's qualifiers.

In defence, Farina will be quite contented with the players at his disposal.

In their last nine matches, Farina's men have conceded just two goals, a record far superior to any nation being represented at the Athens games.

Ten defenders have been used by Farina this campaign and some seem more likely than others to be packing their bags for the Greek capital.

With skipper Ljubo Milicevic all but ruled out of contention through injury and Patrick Kisnorbo a doubtful starter due to a lingering suspension, the role of defensive linchpin falls at the feet of central pairing Adrian Madaschi and David Tarka.

After missing out on selection for January's qualifiers, Madaschi has shown fine form for the Olyroos in friendly internationals with Greece and Tunisia and was most recently seen nodding in a few goals for the Socceroos in Adelaide.

English based Tarka was also rewarded for his consistency with a Socceroo call up last month and has featured heavily in all under 23 matches thus far.

Fellow defenders Jade North of Perth Glory fame and Danish based winger Shane Cansdell-Sherriff are near certainties to fill the wingback roles, having both shown vast consistency throughout the Olyroos lead up.

With Socceroo captain Craig Moore almost certain to be included as an over-age player, Farina is left to ponder which of the following to embrace as squad players throughout the tournament.

Jon McKain, Michael Thwaite, Gareth Edds and Michael Beauchamp are the contenders, with the two former players featuring more prominently in January's qualifiers, particularly McKain, who shone brightly in Milicevic's absence against New Zealand.

Australia's midfield options are just as extensive, with Farina able to call on a glut of options.

Bristol City workhorse Luke Wilkshire is a near certainty, not only for a spot in the team but also for the captaincy.

The former English Premiership player was a pillar of strength for theAustralians against New Zealand and forged a comfortable combination with Inter Milan's Carl Valeri in the centre of the park.

Valeri, a more defensive option than Wilkshire, showed maturity beyond his tender years in January and will be unlucky to miss out on selection next month.

Just as certain is the appearance of Marsden Medal winner Ahmad Elrich, who has gone from strength to strength since debuting for the senior team in Caracas last February.

Elrich's pace and attacking flair down the right flank offers an exciting option for Farina and many expect the Parramatta Power man to cause quite astir in Athens.

On the left side, Farina is likely to experiment with Feyenoord bound Alex Brosque and Auckland hero Ryan Griffiths.

Both players offer a goal scoring touch to the Australian line up, particularly Griffiths, who was in electric form for the Olyroos in their recently completed tour of Switzerland.

Crystal Palace new recruit Socceroo Tim Cahill is tipped to land the overage midfielders role, leaving Farina with a host of quality to call up as cover.

Nick Carle was nothing short of sensational in January and will be very unlucky not to land a spot in the final 18 but from close reports have stated that he was not given the nod.

Farina will also consider the claims of Spase Dilevski, Wayne Srhoj, Matt McKay, Anthony Danze and Fred Agius for his final squad.

Up front is where Australia look a little thin, but not threadbare.

Australia's best attacking options look to rest with Norwegian based Dylan MacAllister and Dutch based Brett Holman, both of whom hit the target with frequency in January's qualifiers.

The option of playing the aforementioned Brosque and Carle in attacking roles gives Farina some flexibility, although it appears likely that Osasuna marksman John Aloisi will be receiving a call up to fill the Olyroos goal scoring void.

Former Young Socceroo captain Scott McDonald will also come into consideration, so to Croatian based striker Anthony Pelikan and FC Koln target man Joshua Kennedy, who was used by Farina in the Olyroos first friendlies against Spain and Turkey in 2003.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2003-04

Bresciano unsure of Parma future

Marco Bresciano returns to Italy this week still unsure of his future at cash-strapped Parma.

The Australia international midfielder told the Sunday Herald-Sun: "I still don't know what's going to happen because everything's up in the air.

"They've got to meet some deadlines, and if they don't meet them they can't re-sign anyone until next year's Serie A.

"They still owe us a lot of money. We haven't been paid since not this season just passed but the one before that.

"We went six or seven months without getting a cent and it's tough because people want to invest their money.

"We've got other deals, but if they pay us one month's wage we could live off it for two years."

Marco Bresciano: Parma future in limbo?

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Green Gully Cavaliers SC	19	12	3	4	32	20	39
Oakleigh Cannons SC	19	12	2	5	31	18	38
Bulleen Zebras SC	19	10	6	3	24	14	36
Frankston Pines SC	19	11	1	7	27	18	34
Preston Lions SC	19	10	3	6	23	15	33
Altona Magic SC	19	10	3	6	32	28	33
St Albans Saints SC	19	9	2	8	25	25	29
Essendon Royals SC	19	8	4	7	25	22	28
Fawkner Blues SC	18	4	3	11	22	26	15
Bentleigh Greens SC	19	4	3	12	13	33	15
Knox City SC	19	3	2	14	15	38	11
Whittlesea Stallions SC	18	2	4	12	25	37	10

Round 20 Fixtures

Fri, 16 Jul, 8:15PM
Oakleigh Cannons SC vs. Whittlesea Stallions

Sun, 18 Jul, 3:00PM
Preston Lions SC vs. GG Cavaliers SC
Essendon Royals SC vs. St Albans Saints SC
Bentleigh Greens SC vs. Altona Magic SC
Frankston Pines SC vs. Fawkner Blues SC

Mon, 19 Jul, 8:15PM
Bulleen Zebras SC vs. Knox City SC

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Lifting Silence of Wolves

Eddie Tesoro is eager to inform local soccer players and fans that he is still active as the Wolves Development and Promotions officer for the time being.

A final decision as to the structure and or future of playing as a Wolves side in the NSW State League needs to be made quickly to prepare coaching staff and a players-squad.

The State League summer competition is going to kick-off in November.

Obviously Eddie is most interested to be involved in a possible Wolves club coaching appointment, hoping an announcement will be made soon.

Meanwhile Eddie Tesoro is busy teaching soccer at local Primary and High Schools from Helensburgh to Nowra, assisted at present by young goalkeeper talent Tom Arcaba who is going France this week to sign up for a leading soccer club.

In the period from 20/5 to 25/6/04 over 1200 youngsters of all age groups have attended conducted soccer coaching sessions.

Recently Eddie Tesoro attended a ceremonial opening of a soccer facility at Warrawong Primary School, speaking at the School assembly in front of 150 students plus teaching staff.

The day was successful with the School forming a soccer team of multicultural background to enter in the State-wide PSSA (Primary School Soccer Association) competition with over 1000 Schools involved.

It can be compared with the well known Bill Turner Cup for High Schools.

Eddie Tesoro holds still ambitions to coach fulltime soccer, if not in Australia then possibly overseas having established contacts in France, Italy and England.

Juniors in Europe

Soccer does provide an adventure unique for the U/16's of Shellharbour Junior Soccer Club.

At present the boys are in Denmark for a week playing 4 trials and training with professional coaches of Brondby Football Club.

On July 12 to 17th the team will be in Sweden, playing in the GOTHIA Cup, the largest youth soccer tournament with players from over 61 nations from corners of the globe participating.

They return home on Sunday July 18th. Whatever the results, the experience of meeting young players from different cultural background is only possible through world wide soccer being played in every country and will leave a long lasting impression on the local lads.

Kosmina signs two-year deal

Adelaide United announced the re-signing of coach John Kosmina to a new, two-year contract.

United backer Gordon Pickard also confirmed the re-appointment of John Perin as football manager and the club's first board member. United will have a nine-person executive board with a managing director and a general manager.

"In terms of what is going to happen next season, while it is still up in the air, we've got an opportunity now to start to plan," Kosmina told The Advertiser.

"Not only plan for the soft opening they are talking about, which may or may not have the World Club Championship representation at stake but also for the future.

"We have to lay the foundations now for this club to still be a vibrant successful club in five or 10 years time."

On player recruitment, Kosmina added, "We are talking to local (players), we are talking to national, we are not talking to international.

"I hear that we are, but not yet have we spoken to anybody from overseas."

Cahill Palace move hits the rocks

The 2million transfer of Tim Cahill to Crystal Palace has hit a stumbling block over a cash row.

Eagles chairman Simon Jordan has refused to pay £125,000 to the 24-year-old Millwall midfielder's agents SFX.

Jordan told the Sun: 'I object to paying that for roughly half-an-hour's work when our fans are paying good money to come through the turnstiles.

'We offered the player a decent Premiership salary and he seemed very keen to join us.

'The agent then asked for five per cent on top, which equated to £125,000.

'I told him he doesn't work for me but for the player and to take the money out of his wages.'

Cahill, who has been with the Lions for seven years after moving from Sydney United in Australia, is hugely popular at the New Den, scoring the goal against Sunderland which took Millwall through to the FA Cup final and a date with Manchester United.

Sam Rush, chief operating officer of SFX, said: 'The terms of the deal did not appeal to the player.'

SOCCERWOMAN By Janene Tanzey

WALSH DOUBLE TOO GOOD FOR MEXICO

Striker Sarah Walsh continued her good form as she netted twice to secure the Qantas Matildas a 2-1 win over Mexico at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City on Friday Australian time, another fantastic result in the lead-up to the Olympic Games.

Walsh had scored both goals in the Qantas Matildas' 2-0 win over China last week, and repeated the feat against Mexico in front of a crowd of around 20,000 at the prestigious venue used for the 1970 and 1986 men's World Cup Finals.

Mexico had booked their ticket to Athens 2004 with a huge upset result in the semifinals of the CONCACAF region qualifiers earlier in the year, knocking out the Canadians who had finished fourth at last year's FIFA Women's World Cup.

Kylie Ledbrook came close to scoring her first senior international goal but her header flew just wide of the mark from a Heather Garriock freekick midway through the half.

Australia then took the lead in the 26th minute through a superb individual goal from Walsh who dispossessed a defender, dribbled past another two before slotting the ball low into the corner of the goal.

Within five minutes, the Australians were two-nil up when a long ball over the top caused the Mexican defence problems. The resultant loose ball was gathered on the edge of the box by Walsh and, spotting the goalkeeper off her line, delivered a clever lob over the keeper and into the back of the net.

In the 81st minute the Mexicans broke through with a superb freekick from 30 metres out by star striker Maribel Dominguez, before Kell again made a top save deep in injury time to ensure the Qantas Matildas remain undefeated on this tour.

Coach Adrian Santrac was delighted after the game that was played in high altitude.

"This is a fantastic result, the players worked very very hard," said Santrac.

"We're developing and we have some momentum but we do have to learn to play smarter. The altitude had a big effect on our players which made the result even more credible."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND QUEENSLAND TAKE THE HONOURS

South Australia and Queensland have claimed the honours in the finals of the 2004 Qantas National Talent Identification Championships which were held on Saturday in Sydney, South Australia winning the Under 17s national title with the Queenslanders claiming the crown in the Under 15s age group.

South Australia won the Youth final with a solid 2-0 win over Victoria courtesy of first half goals to Hannah Vogt and Katrina Bexis. The South Australians were deserved champions, having won all of their six games throughout the course of the eight-day tournament conceding just one goal in the process.

It was the first women's national championship crown for South Australia since 2000 when they won the Youth event (U17s), and also the best result for runners-up Victoria since they were Youth (U19) champions in 1999.

ACT finished third thanks to a first half goal from Georgia Chapman and a late penalty to Nicole Somi giving them a 2-0 win over Northern NSW.

Queensland won the Junior (U15) title with a 1-0 win over rivals NSW Metropolitan in a match that could have gone either way. Tennielle Boaler scored the game's only goal in the 38th minute with the result ensuring the Queenslanders finished with the perfect record of having gone through the tournament without conceding a goal or dropping a point.

The win gave Queensland their third consecutive championship title in the Junior division.

The Youth best player award was taken out by Queensland's Young Matildas defender Kim Carroll, whilst Elle Crowe, a NSW Country resident who competed in these championships for Northern Territory, won the Junior best player award. ACT took out the U17 Fair Play Award with NSW Metropolitan winning the same award in the U15s.

Next year's tournament will be contested in the 16s and 18s age-brackets in keeping with the age requirements of the 2006 FIFA U19 Women's World Championship.

Under 17s

Final - South Australia 2 (H Vogt 29', K Bexis 37') Victoria 0

3rd place play-off - ACT 2 (G Chapman 40', N Somi 64' pen) Northern NSW 0

Final Standings -
1st South Australia
2nd Victoria
3rd ACT
4th Northern NSW
5th Queensland
6th Western Australia
=7th NSW Country
=7th NSW Metropolitan
9th Tasmania
10th Northern Territory

Under 15s

Final - Queensland 1 (T Boaler 38') NSW Metropolitan 0

3rd place play-off - Northern NSW 2 (L Smith 19', L Hough 50') Victoria 1 (A Gibney 33')

Final Standings -
1st Queensland
2nd NSW Metropolitan
3rd Northern NSW
4th Victoria
5th Western Australia
6th South Australia
7th ACT
8th Northern Territory
9th NSW Country
10th Tasmania

from the

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

ABSW were first on Venables

The news that Terry Venables last week put pen to paper on a deal as coach with hopeful APL side Newcastle United as something *ABSW* knew months back.

Appearing on the 20th of April of this year, *ABSW* managed to bag the scoop on 'El Tel', coming to Australia.

Credit must however go to the Greek Herald as well, as they were the first to print out the article.

All mainstream papers caught on a tad too late, three months actually, in screening this story.

Venables will sign for the year at Newcastle with a hefty salary package that would see the Novacastrians hopefully reap many benefits.

The signing of El Tel only means one thing – that Newcastle have been assured 100% that they have a spot in next year's new competition.

Newcastle United soccer owner and soccer man Con Constantine, also the man behind Parklea Markets, was relieved to have gained the signing of the former England and Socceroo coach.

His arrival in Constantine's mind will surely bring not only success but the crowds in an area known for its sport fanatics.

Newcastle United's football operations director Remo Nogarotto was the main orchestrator behind the Venables move.

It was Remo who flew to England with Constantine in late February clinching a deal.

What this will mean for soccer in Newcastle will be rather overwhelming.

Predominantly known as a Rugby League area with the Newcastle Knights, the Venables coup could bring together the soccer community in a much stronger way.

The Parklea owner has likened the arrival Venables to what Greek coach Otto Rehhagel did with the Greek squad this year at the Euro.

Both the Greek Herald and ABSW ran the Venables story three months before any other media cracked the piece. Shown here are the headlines of each front-page stories.

Let's not go too far there Con, Rehhagel's tactics and vision on a team that was seen as nobody's was unbelievable and something that will not be seen in a long time.

Its believed that Terry's appointment could possibly spark some interest with ex-Australian stars coming back to the country in donning the Newcastle strip.

Paul Okon could be coming home for Newcastle however it was stated in the media a few weeks back that he did sign on for Belgium outfit KV Oostende.

Venables will be based in Newcastle amidst rumors he was going to do it all from England like he did with the Roos some years back.

Sermani tipped for Olympic Gaffa

NSW Premier League outfit Sydney Olympic are expected to announce former Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermani as their new coach for this season.

Sermani will lead a new look Blues side that are expected to be amongst the top four in the revamped NSW Premier League competition with a number of ex-Olympic boys said to be one their ways back to the club.

Belmore Sports Ground looks the likely scenario for Olympic's home base as the club has stated it would like to get back to its more traditional roots.

Sydney United resign Lee

It is also believed that Grant Lee will again take up the coaching post at Sydney United in the NSW Premier League competition this season.

Rumours have ran riot that former Socceroo Zlatko Arambasic was tipped to take over the squad but we could see 'Zlats', in the Sydney United colours as a player instead.

ABSW have already revealed that Jean Paul de Marigny has re-signed with the Stallions with one star player set to stay with the club.

Crafty midfielder Nick Carle looks certain to stay on with the club after a last minute move to Denmark fell through.

The Wolves in search of a coach!

With both Sydney United and Marconi announcing their coaches for the new year, and Olympic set to finalize theirs, the Wollongong Wolves have been in the loop of who was going to attain the side's number one spot.

November 20th is the date set for the first initial kick-off in the NSW Premier League and the Wolves have yet to announce anything.

John Turner, Wollongong's coach last season looks the likely man to retain the number one spot however speculation has heard that Port Kembla coach Adrian Alston could possibly get the nod.

Alston though has made it clear that no one from the Wolves has contacted him making his position as head coach hit with a huge question mark.

Turner did his fair share last season in guiding what appeared to be an under-strength Wolves squad to some much needed glory having scalped the heads of many top notch sides that included the Perth Glory and Parramatta Power.

The Illawarra Premier League has been targeted as a main stable for the Wolves to gain their players for the new year with experts down the 'Gong' stating that this season's competition has been by far one of the best in the history of their local league.

Good on you Harps!

Is Andy Harper Portuguese?

That was certainly the verdict during the live telecast of this year's Euro 2004 Final on Fox Sports.

Harper, a man known for his intellectual strength and power through the use of his very articulate words was a guest on the panel for the huge game and wore the scarf of Portugal.

To his dismay, the Greeks ended up winning the match and thus at the conclusion of the show, the Portuguese scarf was no where to be seen on Harper.

Andy I have a couple spare here at the office so next time you pop on the show, I'm pretty sure you'd look much better in the blue and white colours of Hellas!

Soccer NSW: The people should have a say in Sydney's National League team

SOCCER NSW

The President of Soccer NSW, Mr Tom Doumanis, launched a consultation process with the football family over the proposed Sydney team to play in the new national competition.

"If it's to be the people's team, then the people should have a say at the very outset," said Mr Doumanis.

Soccer NSW has lodged a Registration of Interest document with the Australian Soccer Association over the licence for Sydney. The city will be represented by one team in the eight-club competition to kick off in mid-2005.

Today, an internet poll on the Soccer NSW website will kick off the consultation process.

The poll will seek the views of the football family on the fundamental choices for the Sydney team in the NNC, including team name, team colours, home stadium, when matches are played & what type of players should represent Sydney.

In addition, members of the football family wishing to express their creativity are invited to submit their designs & ideas for a club logo, mascot & team name. A $500 gift voucher will be awarded to the entry judged as the most creative.

"Our view is that the Sydney team must have the affinity and the affection of the football family if it is to prosper," said Mr Doumanis.

"That connection between the grassroots and the professional level was a missing link in the old National Soccer League. Soccer NSW believes it's absolutely essential to establish the connection if Australia is to have a vibrant and sustainable national league."

Soccer NSW expressed interest in being a part of the new national competition after the ASA encouraged State & Territory football federations to be involved.

The results of the Internet Poll will be part of the evaluation process in deciding whether Soccer NSW is part of a formal bid for the Sydney licence, as well as providing valuable feedback about what the football family is looking for in a new league.

Soccer NSW is Australia's largest sporting body by membership, with 180,000 registered players, 32 associations and 700 clubs.

To participate in the poll, please click here:
http://www.soccernsw.com.au/home

Soccer Lions want to call Lang Park home

The Queensland Lions consortium, which is bidding for a licence in the new national soccer league, has announced an ambitious plan to use Lang Park as its home ground.

The consortium hopes to meet national soccer chief John O'Neill in the next few weeks to discuss its bid.

The Lions bid is in competition with the Brisbane Strikers, who hope to remain in a revamped national competition due to kick-off next year.

Queensland Lions consultant John Ribot said playing home matches at Lang Park was not being unrealistic.

"I think that's an indication to the people of Queensland that we are taking this very seriously," Mr Ribot said.

"It's a big stadium, we know, it's a big challenge to get crowds there, but it certainly is the best place for us to be."

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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Hurstville City Minotaurs Celebrate 20th Anniversary

An Annual Ball on Saturday 24th July 2004 at the Palais Reception Lounge in Leichhardt will be held to mark 20 years of existence for this popular soccer club.

"We started one team for fun in 1985 and 20 years later we have grown to about 20 teams including a senior Super League team as well as five Division One youth teams.

We have teams in all age groups starting from U/6 to All Age, 0/35 and girls and womens teams.

There is not much money around but there is a lot of pride and commitment to the game said a very excited Peter "the General Sarikakis."

The 20th year Anniversary Ball will be very big and very historic for many people.

M.C. for the evening will be George "Mimo" Kapiniaris which guarantees a lot of laughter assisting him at the microphone will be the General of course with chronological details.

A lot of interesting dignitaries headed by the President of Soccer NSW Mr Tom Doumanis and the Chief Executive Officer Mr Robert Waddell will be present in what promises to be a very exciting evening.

Ex-Presidents, sponsors, and many "stars-from the past" will assemble at this very nice reception lounge to eat, drink, dance and talk about "the good old times."

The General has personally invited his good friend Mr Peter Gray.

Because it is very hard to invite each individual player Peter Sarikakis has asked for the assistance of *ABSW* to get the message to all ex-players officials and supporters to get in touch with him for the booking of seats for the evening of the 24th July 2004.

"The class of 1997" will be there of course Peter can be contacted on **0412 407 830**.

The General wishes to invite all present and ex-players to attend — such players that have worn the famous black and white stripes are:-

George Bouhoutsos, Peter Tsekenis, Krzimic Marousic, Terry Palapanis, Vince Colegiuri, George Kalogeras, Tom Pontidas, Loui Dounis, Peter Papoutsis, J. Nikas, Sam Panagakis, George Zabetakis, Ante Mihaljevic, John Palapanis, John Mylonas, Robbie Ironside, Jim Melissourgos, G. Naoumis, P. Fragakis, J. Pantazis, S. Sampsonis, M. Remondos, C. Kristallis, M. Drossos, B. Drossos, T. Bakafoukas, S. Bakafoukas, C. Bakafoukas, S. Kalamvokis, A. Kalamvokis, G. Kalamvokis, P. Spais, J. Sklias, G. Sklias, Con Katsimardos, Chris Katsimardos, C. Lymnios, B. Delfakis, M. Sarikakis, N. Sarikakis, S. Alogdellis, M. Kladis, S. Kladis (I), S. Kladis (II), J. Skotadis, C. Mistridis, N. Poniris, A. Kalimanis, A. Gatsos, V. Mickovski, G. Triantafyllou, C. Triantafyllou, S. Heracleous, B. Fistar, N. Nicholas, P. Benetis, B. Baldatzis, Zia Younan, Con Manouras, C. Karanasos, C. Andrews, J. Psaradellis, J. Wells, G. Tzaneros, N. Tzaneros, N. Andreou, F. Tzavellas, S. Yanakoulias, P. Paraskevas, S. Antonaras, D. Fernandez, M. Berries, T. Berries, J. Karaparashos, Dom Colagiuri, B. Stefanakis, E. Vassiliadis, G. Manolis, R. Somboli, J. Demetriadis, M. Xanthoudakis, J. Lagoudakis, M. Lagoudakis, N. Avgenakis, T. Kakis, C. Nikolaou, G. Nikolaou, J. Anagnostopoulos, P. Ifandoudas, A. Markopoulos, N. Bolianitis, C. Simotas, A. Petratos, M. Pavlakis, S. Lourbeas, N. Knithakis, P. Spanoudakis, M. Grillakis, J. Iliopoulos.

And any players I have missed — The General.

There will be a selection of the best squad for the first 10 years a selection of the best squad for the second 10 years and a squad of the best of all time.

Including coach assistance coach and managers.

Everyone will leave with some momento to remember the occasion.

'We are the champions' - Hurstville City Minotaurs shown celebrating one of their many championship winning trophy's

Kingz move for top South African scorer

Football Kingz chief Guy Hedderwick has confirmed South African international striker Keryn Jordan will begin preseason with the Kiwi club ahead of next year's new Australian Premier League competition.

Jordan is currently with Manning Rangers in South Africa's Premier League and his is country's top scorer.

Still on 24, Jordan survived a violent car-jacking earlier this year and if he can win a Kingz contract, will move to New Zealand with wife Sherry and son, Liam.

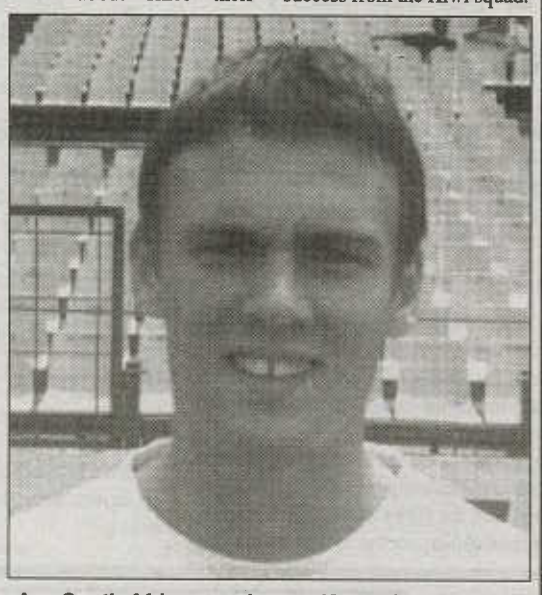
Meanwhile, Hedderwick says contract talks with Jason Rowley, Jeremy Christie and Michael Utting are progressing positively. "Once the contracts finished at the end of June that left Danny (Hay), Noah (Hickey), me and Robin (Gardner)," Hedderwick told the Sunday News.

"It's difficult because we still don't know when it's going to start. "But we're still wanting to build a team capable of winning the league."

The Kingz are keen on getting a new look squad into the APL next year as the side want to deter their miserable past seasons they've spent in the National League.

Many fans in New Zealand have had little to smile about since their Confederations Cup debut after their national side lost out to a place against the Socceroos for a finals showing with the fifth best South American side in time for the 2006 World Cup.

Fans have seen the Kingz embedded in the foot of the table, and have yet to see any success from the Kiwi squad.



Ace South African marksman Keryn Jordan will be joining the Kingz for next season's APL.

PFA considers strategic direction

The PFA recently held a Strategic Planning meeting at the Stamford Hotel in Sydney, which considered the direction of the organisation in the context of major change within the industry.

In attendance were members of the PFA's Executive Committee, Advisory Committee Life Members and Staff who commenced a process of examining future opportunities for the organisation and its' members.

The level of enthusiasm and participation in discussions emphasised a commitment to the principles of the PFA and the emotional connection to the Game.

Much of the discussion centered around how the extended players community could support the development of current and future players in addition to the development of the Game. Consideration was given to the establishment of a Players' Committee as recommended in the Crawford Report.

It was resolved that the PFA Strategic Plan was to be further considered through the establishment phase of the new national league and take into account the views of the entire player community.

Highland Football Academy

Special report By Roy Hay

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the Australian and Victorian Institutes of Sport have been a significant influence in the world game.

In the highlands of Scotland there is one of three academies of football which derive some of their inspiration from their Australian predecessors.

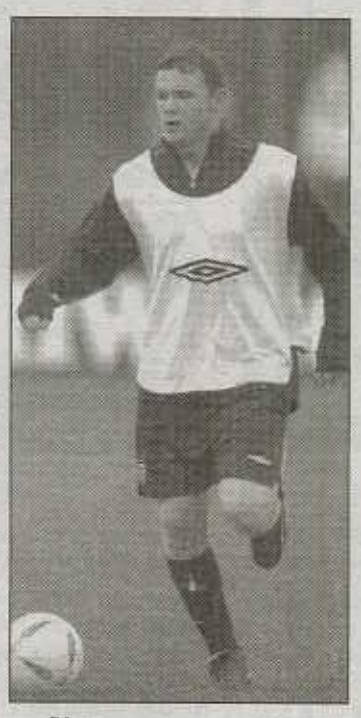
The other two are attached to Scottish Premier Division giants, Rangers and Heart of Midlothian.

The Highland Football Academy in Dingwall is unique in that it is linked to two clubs, Ross County and Inverness Caledonian Thistle, the latter of which finished top of Division One in the Scottish Football League and is currently engaged in a battle to achieve promotion to the Scottish Premier League.

The clubs and their predecessors were long-term rivals but they have come together to support the Academy and its Development Manager, Rod Houston.

Rod Houston was a good amateur player, but a born teacher and coach and he was head-hunted to make sure the new Academy would turn from a dream and a set of buildings into a functioning enterprise for the whole of the Highland Region of Scotland.

He has been determined to get the relevant infrastructure in place so that a range of programs can be run through the organisation.



Players such as England's new found hero Wayne Rooney have benefited from various youth programs established across the world.

As he points out, thirty years ago 100,000 children entered the educational system in Scotland each year, now there are only 50,000 so the nation has to make better use of every youngster if it is to prosper.

The sporting bodies also must encourage the full personal development of everyone with whom they come in contact.

Houston is driven by three aims.

To allow each youngster to develop into a mature and healthy adult.

To provide the correct infrastructure for the development of that person's athletic and football abilities.

To work closely with the schools so that a full general education occurs alongside the work being done on football skills.

He is influenced by Swedish as well as Australian models and works closely with his former colleague and long-time friend Ross Jack at the Scottish Institute of Sport to ensure that the very best standards are reached and maintained at the Highland Academy.

'I can get all the information I need from Ross Jack and his colleagues, without rushing round the world myself', he said. 'Football in this country and this region has to maintain itself.

It is no use duplicating what the clubs or other organisations are doing, we have to make sure that we are providing the best of what we can do best'.

'People are now realising that working to help individuals to improve in the context of team sports is both feasible and worthwhile'.

QUEENSLAND LIONS SOCCER CLUB

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QUEENSLAND LIONS SOCCER CLUB

Rochedale delivers sucker punch

By Glenn Davis

Rochedale Rovers delivered a psychological blow on Pine Rivers for the upcoming semi finals series in the Brisbane premier league with a hard fought 2-1 win at Underwood Park on Saturday night.

Rochedale came from a goal down after striker Josh Rose netted for Pine Rivers in the 15th minute to grab three points with goals from Chris Dodds and Nick Maas.

Dodds got the equaliser on the half hour finishing off with a well-taken strike after great build up from teammates Greg Thomas and Maas.

The winner for the home side came with 15 minutes remaining when Maas headed home.

"Chris' goal was a good one but I think it must have taken a deflection, otherwise it took a wicked dip," said Rochedale coach Kieran Cooper.

Rochedale are riding high in the premier league this season with 32 points from ten wins and two draws and moved into second place on goal differences over Pine Rivers.

The result reversed Rochedale's first round loss to Pine Rivers at Wendy Allison Park.

Rochedale became the only side this year to beat premiership certainties Queensland Lions when they knocked the champions out of the Queensland Cup on penalties last week.

"It's always close when we play Pine Rivers," Cooper said.

"It was close enough for a draw again but I was happy with our performance and the win."

Rochedale has not lost in the league since Lions toppled them four weeks ago.

Pine Rivers coach Clayton Koch believed the match could have gone either way and a draw would have been fitting.

"It was a tight game and they dominated possession for 60 minutes," Koch said.

"It could have gone either way. We peppered their goal in the last 10 minutes looking for the equaliser but couldn't score.

"It always felt like a one goal game just as it was in the first round."

Pine Rivers' defeat was only its fourth loss this year but with six games remaining before the semi finals, their depth will be called on.

Koch expected to be without keeper Troy Reid and Damian Harris for the Rochedale clash after the pair were sent off in their last match.

However, both players lodged appeals, which enabled them to play.

"I thought we would have five of our regular players out against Rochedale but there's a new rule like they have in England now which allows players to appeal a send off," Koch said.

Reid and Harris will have their appeals heard this week but if they are unsuccessful they will miss next week's match against North Star.

While Rochedale jumped into second place, Lions continued their unbeaten league run with a 6-nil thrashing of wooden spoon favourites Souths.

Souths trailed 2-nil at the break after Lions opened the scoring through Andy Packer before Ben Griffin increased their lead before the interval

The second half was all Lions with Jonathan Richter grabbing a double for a 4-nil lead before Jamie Lowndes and Royce Brownlie added the last two.

Lions will aim up against Brisbane City next week in the knowledge a victory would wrap up the premiership.

Lions will welcome back the influential Greg Di Losa for the next match after a five-week break from the game due to an overseas commitment.

However, Reece Tollenaere, who came off early against Rochedale last week with a knee injury, is expected to be sidelined for a further five weeks but should be available for the finals series.

With Souths remaining in deep trouble to avoid relegation, Easts' relegation crisis also worsened with a 1-nil loss to Toowoomba.

The game's only goal came on the hour when Chris Wilkes' corner was nodded out by the Easts defence before Ian Cockburn drilled home low first time shot.

East remain on 14 points but have now been joined by Toowoomba who have a game in hand against Wynnum.

Easts coach Col Bennett blamed a lack of a goal scorer for his side's costly defeat.

"We're not a bad side but we can't score goals," Bennett said.

"We had shot after shot after shot but couldn't put them away.

"Their keeper Trevor Gilliland had an outstanding match and was easily the best player on the park.

Bennett is hoping the recent signing of Brisbane Strikers forward Warren Moon may solve his goal scoring dilemma.

"We signed Warren just before the deadline and we'll just have to fight our way out of this trouble," he said.

Easts were touted as semi final contenders early in the season but the pressure of premier league football has told on the Tigers who were promoted from first division last year.

"It's not an excuse but we had ten players out of the top squad through injuries and suspensions," Bennett said.

"We had 80 per cent of the possession against Toowoomba but we lost it off a long throw and a poke in five minutes into the second half

"Our next two matches are against Mitchelton and Lions and they'll be critical for us."

Toowoomba coach Gordon McBain said his side's inability to train on their home ground this year had affected its home form.

"We have more points on the road that at home and this was a vital game for us and the three points has moved us level with Easts," McBain said.

"It's so tight at the bottom, there are so many teams in the relegation picture."

Taringa Rovers hopes of remaining in the premier league received a welcomed shot in the arm with an upset 1-nil win over North Star at Jack Speare Park.

The victory was not the result Easts wanted as Taringa joined the Tigers but are inferior on goal differences with 14 points.

Taringa's fourth win of the season came courtesy of a 10th minute goal from Reza Aysen who capitalised on a mistake in the North Star defence.

Taringa coach Allan Waller praised his side's defence after the match for the victory and conceded North Star could also have won.

"There was nothing in the game for either side and both keepers had great games," Waller said.

Josh Watson was a stand out for Taringa making two match winning saves but his opposite Anthony Hall also kept his side in the match.

"From out point of view it could have gone either way but our defence was very good," he said.

Mitchelton cemented its fourth place with a torrid 1-nil away win over Brisbane City at Spencer Park.

City, who started the match just two points adrift of Mitchelton, now finds themselves five points off the pace as they struggle to make the final four with six games to go.

Mitchelton's Randall Banks' second half header was the only difference between the two sides.

City coach Frank Pimblett was happy with his team's effort and believed a draw would have been a fairer result.

"I can't complain about our effort. We worked hard and it was only a sloppy goal on a set piece which cost us the match," Pimblett said.

"We had plenty of opportunities to score but there was nothing between the two sides.

"The players knew it was a six point game for us and we could have shared the points in the last minute when Nick Serra missed a simple chance when he hit his shot into their keeper."

Palm Beach bounced back from a recent horror spell with a hard fought 2-1 win over Wynnum at Carmichael Park.

Pall Beach trailed 1-nil early in the match before Daniel Fung scored from inside the box to go to the half time break on level terms with the home side.

Fabian Tjin proved the hero for the visitors after the break grabbing the match winner with a neat goal from close range.

Palm Beach coach Karl Herdle was delighted with the victory after some indifferent performances in the second round.

"We were out of the Queensland Cup last week so I took the side to Bundaberg for a trial," Herdle said.

"We lost badly to Rochedale in our last premier league game but I saw some positives which I've worked on.

"I've got a few players who have played in the summer league and they have been a bit jaded so I've slowed training a bit and it's working."

Both sides began the match equal on 19 points but the visitors' win has enabled them to join Brisbane City in fifth place, five points adrift of Mitchelton.

Results & Tables

Premier Cup
Rochedale Rovers 2 (Dodd, Maas) v **Pine Rivers 1** (Rose) *Half-time 1-1*
Souths United 0 v **Queensland Lions 6** (Packer, Griffin, Richter 2, Brownlie, Lowndes) *Half-time 0-2*
Brisbane Wolves 1 (Paolino) v **Palm Beach Sharks 2** (Fung, Tjin) *Half-time 1-1*
Taringa Rovers 1 (Aysen) v **North Star 0** *Half-time 1-0*
Eastern Suburbs 0 v **Toowoomba Raiders 1** (Cockburn) *Half-time 0-0*
Brisbane City 0 v **Mitchelton 1** (Banks) *Half-time 0-0*

Premier Reserves Rochedale Rovers 3 Pine Rivers 0, Souths United 0 Queensland Lions 5, Brisbane Wolves 2 Palm Beach 1, Taringa Rovers 2 North Star 3, Eastern Suburbs 0 Toowoomba Raiders 3, Brisbane City 3 Mitchelton 3

Premier Youth Rochedale Rovers 7 Pine Rivers 0, Souths United 1 Queensland Lions 2, Brisbane Wolves 0 Palm Beach 2, Taringa Rovers 1 North Star 5, Eastern Suburbs 1 Toowoomba Raiders 2, Brisbane City 3 Mitchelton 0

Division 1 Beenleigh 2 Capalaba 5, Ipswich Knights 5 Albany Creek 1, Redlands United 3 Southside Eagles 2, Peninsula Power 1 Brisbane Olympic 3, The Gap 1 Rocklea 2, Uni of Qld 1 Mt Gravatt 0
Sunday; Brisbane Wolves v Palm Beach, Taringa Rovers v North Star, Brisbane City v Mitchelton

Division 1 Reserves Beenleigh 2 Capalaba 2, Ipswich Knights 1 Albany Creek 0, Redlands United 3 Southside Eagles 1, Peninsula Power 4 Brisbane Olympic 0, The Gap 2 Rocklea 0, Uni of Qld 1 Mt Gravatt 0

Division 1 Youth Beenleigh 1 Capalaba 1, Ipswich Knights 1 Albany Creek 2, Redlands United 15 Southside Eagles 0, Peninsula Power 2 Brisbane Olympic2, The Gap 2 Rocklea 1, Uni of Qld 3 Mt Gravatt 0

Division 2 Newmarket 0 Ipswich City 0, Moggill United 0 Samford 1, Goodna 2 Bethania Rams 1, North Pine 2 Brisbane Force 3, Slacks Creek 1 Grange Thistle 0, Oxley 2 Annerley 5

Division 2 Reserves Newmarket 1 Ipswich City 2, Moggill United 0 Samford 5, Goodna 1 Bethania Rams 2, North Pine 4 Brisbane Force 3, Slacks Creek 0 Grange Thistle 2, Oxley 0 Annerley 2

Metro 1 Taringa Rovers 3 Souths United 0, Wilston Athletic 6 Mitchelton 0, Darra Lions 6 Pineapple Rovers 1, Clairvaux 4 Brisbane Wolves 2, Bayside 3 Acacia Ridge 2, Park Ridge 5 Uni of Qld 0

Metro 2 Brighton 3 Ridge Hills 0, The Gap 4 Mooroondu 1, Newmarket 4 Pine Hills 5, Pine Rivers 1 Redcliffe PCYC 0, Brisbane Toro 2 Logan City Kings 3

Metro 3 Grange Thistle 4 North Pine 0, Newmarket 5 Souths United 1, Eastern Suburbs 0 Uni of Qld 1, Darra Lions 2 Pineapple Rovers 0, Clairvaux 8 Pine Hills 0, Bayside 2 Acacia Ridge 6

Metro 4 Brisbane Force 3 Beenleigh 1, Regents Park 8 Newmarket 1, Taringa Rovers 2 Mt Gravatt 3, Old Bridge v Southside Eagles (not available) , Brisbane City v The Gap (Not available), Slacks Creek 4 Acacia Ridge 3

Metro 5 North Star 10 Redlands 0, Eastern Suburbs 1 Ridge Hills 1, Clairvaux 2 Ipswich City 2, Albany Creek 2 Brisbane Olympic 4, Slacks Creek 4 Annerley 1

Metro 6 Regents Park 4 Goodna 2, Camira 1 Albany Creek 0, Mt Gravatt 0 Brisbane Wolves 0, Park Ridge 2 Mooroondu 0

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	L	D	For	Ag	Pts
Queensland Lions	16	16	0	0	62	6	48
Rochedale Rovers	16	10	4	2	37	24	32
Pine Rivers	16	10	4	2	38	32	32
Mitchelton	16	8	5	3	27	20	27
Palm Beach	16	6	6	4	28	30	22
Brisbane City	16	7	8	1	25	30	22
Brisbane Wolves	15	6	8	1	26	33	19
North Star	16	5	8	3	22	27	18
Taringa Rovers	16	4	10	2	26	37	14
Eastern Suburbs	16	4	10	2	19	31	14
Toowoomba Raiders	15	4	9	2	13	32	14
Souths United	16	2	10	4	16	37	1

DIVISION ONE	P	W	L	D	For	Ag	Pts
Brisbane Olympic	16	12	2	2	29	11	38
Peninsula Power	16	9	3	4	32	16	31
Uni of Qld	15	8	1	6	37	20	30
Mt Gravatt	16	7	6	3	26	21	24
Southside Eagles	16	7	6	3	25	21	24
Redlands United	16	6	5	5	32	26	23
Ipswich Knights	16	6	7	3	25	21	21
Beenleigh	16	6	7	3	27	28	21
Albany Creek	16	4	10	2	24	34	14
The Gap	15	2	7	6	20	29	12
Capalaba	16	2	8	6	18	41	12
Rocklea United	16	3	10	3	12	39	12

Stange quits as Iraq coach

Former Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange has quit his job in charge of Iraq's national team "with deep regrets", citing security concerns.

Stange, 56, who guided Iraq from the closing months of Saddam Hussein's regime nearly two years ago into the violence-filled post-war era, said he no longer felt safe there.

He said it was becoming increasingly impossible to train a soccer team amid the worsening turmoil.

"It is with deep regrets that I decided to dissolve my contract with the Iraq football association," Stange told Reuters by telephone from his home in eastern Germany.

An assistant coach will now take over, he said.

Stange said he was heeding warnings from the German Foreign Office as well as his own bodyguard to stay out of Iraq because security for foreigners could no longer be assured.

"My personal bodyguard told me he feared for my life," he said.

"The conditions for foreigners in Iraq are extremely difficult and I didn't feel I could continue to risk being there. And you can't prepare a team for the Olympics, the Asian Cup or World Cup qualifications long-distance on the telephone."

Stange said last year he had felt immune to the troubles because he was so well known as coach of the national side.

"Everything has got worse since then," said Stange. "The football situation has also deteriorated. Players are leaving Iraq. There's no real first division play."

Stange, who helped Iraq rise as high as 42 in the FIFA world rankings from 77 when he took over, said the Iraqi FA wanted him to return when the situation stabilised.

"They were quite satisfied with me and have written that they would be 'happy to resume the cooperation when the circumstances improve'," he said.

A return was unlikely, however.

"I believe a clear severance is better, as much as it pains me," said Stange, who has not been paid since February.

"I truly regret it because I would very much like to have seen my work in Iraq come to fruition.

"We made football history in Iraq, it was the highest FIFA ranking in the last 15 years. I'm very proud of what we accomplished."

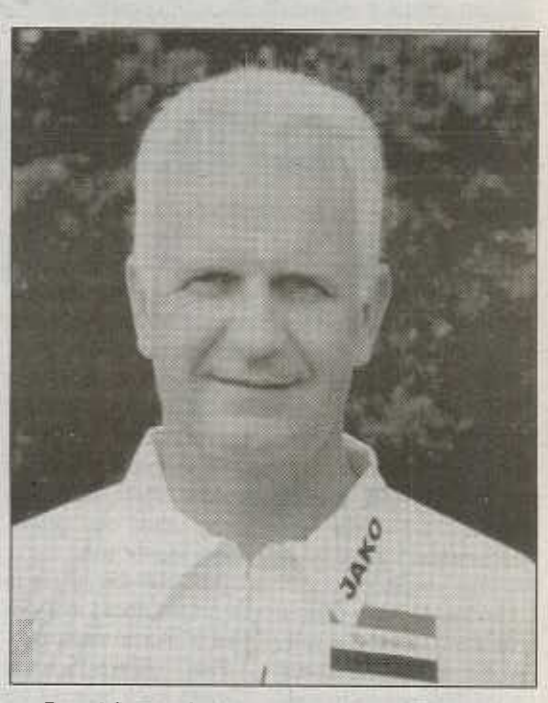
In December, FIFA President Sepp Blatter presented Stange with an award on behalf of Iraq's beleaguered soccer community.

Stange has previously coached East Germany, Bundesliga side Hertha Berlin, Perth Glory and Oman.

His controversial decision to accept the Iraq job in late 2002 caused uproar when he was photographed signing a four-year contract smiling in front of a portrait of Saddam.

Insisting he was a soccer coach, not a politician, Stange later became a folk hero in Germany for helping rebuild Iraqi football.

He said he hoped to find a new coaching job in Europe.



Bernd Stange has quit as Iraq's national team coach due to safety concerns.

Moore set for Olympics

Rangers have agreed to release Australian captain Craig Moore for two friendly internationals before the start of the new season - a decision that he is apparently being punished for.

According to a Daily Record report in Glasgow, Rangers manager Alex McLeish has confirmed that the Aussie captain will be allowed to join Frank Farina's Olympic squad on July 21 for games in Japan and Korea.

McLeish would only say: "I want to speak to Craig before I say anything else."

But Australian boss Frank Farina is quoted as saying: "If it's the case that Rangers take away Craig's captaincy, then that would be disappointing.

"He has been there for over a decade and been loyal to the club.

"The Olympic Games for a footballer can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and this will likely be Craig's last chance.

"You would hope that Rangers would support him. Craig missed the Atlanta Games through injury after playing in all of the qualifiers so it has been a dream for him to be an Olympian.

"He is fiercely proud of being an Australian and we know he is really keen to go to Athens."

The realisation of Moore's Olympic dream looks like costing him his place in the Rangers squad.

There is no doubt the club are trying to punish him for seeking to represent his country while being a Rangers player.

Craig Moore will be at the Olympics in August

Strikers bid in limbo

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers' bid for inclusion in the revamped national league may have struck turbulent waters following Soccer Queensland president Geoff Foster's decision to resign from the Strikers' board.

According to the Sunday Mail newspaper in Brisbane last weekend, Foster is said to have bowed to pressure from local ranks by submitting his resignation.

It followed revelations, Foster had taken a position on the Strikers' board to maintain a close association and help communication between the two parties.

The Australian Soccer Association has indicated it would prefer an involvement from State federations with prospective national league sides.

According to the report, Foster denied he had any input in the Strikers' bid to play in the new competition.

Foster also defended claims that his appointment was covered up after Soccer Queensland only last week released minutes of which he disclosed his appointment.

The *Sunday Mail* report asserted that according to documents filed by the Strikers with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Foster was appointed to the Strikers Football Club Pty Ltd on May 19.

"The Strikers must have jumped the gun, because I did not agree to take a position until the week leading into our (SQ) meeting on June 22," Foster said in the report.

"I have since decided to seek leave from the Strikers board until a determination on the successful Queensland application is made.

"I do not believe I should have to, but given the emotion out there I felt it appropriate to stand down."

The report claimed Foster was aware his appointment to the Strikers' board could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Soccer Queensland has endorsed both bids by Brisbane Strikers and the cashed up Queensland Lions for entry into the new national league.

Two country centres, Townsville and Cairns, also are believed to have shown interest in playing in the new league.

Foster also plans to ask his board to review why Soccer Queensland is still listed with ASIC as a 20 per cent shareholder in the Strikers.

In a deal brokered last year, Soccer Queensland returned its 20 per cent share in the company to Strikers chairman Clem Jones.

The agreement also included the transfer of Soccer Queensland's long term lease of Perry Park to the Strikers.

"The issue with share holding is yet to be resolved. I have circulated information to the SQ board," Foster said in the article.

"It is our understanding there is a legal document about the assignment of the shares, which would take precedence of the Strikers' failure to make a declaration to ASIC.

"I have spoken with Clem about it and he's told me we are still shareholders because he has decided not to action his option to take back the shares," Foster said.

Soccer Queensland chief executive David Kay was reportedly stunned when told of the ASIC documents after he had handled negotiations with Jones.

Australian first: Futsal star signs for Lazio

Lazio's new Australian star Greg Giovenali shown with his new coach Eduardo Valdez Basso

By Tony Chan

In April of this year, Greg Giovenali, a 16 year-old Australian Futsal player, travelled with his coach Tony Chan to CVM Lazio Calcio a 5 in Italy.

The experience allowed Giovenali to train with experienced players such as Daverson "Dadà" Franzoi, Salvatore Zaffiro and Brazilian World Cup winner (Hong Kong 1992) Sérgio Luís Schiochet "Serginho", and to learn under the guidance of coach Eduardo Valdez Basso "Morruga".

After a successful month of trialling with the Lazio first squad, Giovenali has been offered a contract, to return to Lazio in August.

In accepting the offer from Lazio, Giovenali becomes the first Australian player to play Futsal professionally, for a club outside Australia.

Following this Italian leg, Giovenali and Chan flew onto Spain in May, where they met up with two other 16 year-old Australian players, Matthew Dorigo and Isaac Wadick, for a similar programme with Gervasport Atletico Boadilla.

The three players (who all play for ThoseWithFaith and Dural, two Futsal clubs based in Sydney, Australia, who have helped to support these programmes) had the opportunity to train and to learn for one month from Javier Lorente, a legend in the game of Futsal, as well as other top Spanish players, including Alberto Cogorro and Davichin.

Although no contracts were offered, Boadilla were also impressed by the quality of these Australian players and are keen to continue the "Futbol sin Fronteras" programme in the future.

Dorigo, Giovenali and Wadick were all very happy with their experience both in terms of Futsal and in terms of the cultural exposure. Their coach, Chan, had the following to say: "This is a very important step for the growth of Futsal in Australia. It is a tremendous achievement for Greg to be the first Australian player to play Futsal as a professional in Europe. It is also good for the sport, that clubs like ThoseWithFaith and Dural now have strong links with two excellent clubs in Europe, who will now be able to build new programmes, both to better the development of players in Australia, and to offer Australian players a career path in the sport of Futsal.

"It is important for Australian Futsal, that good players are continually being exported to better leagues around the world. Only this way will these players develop, through better coaching and better competition, to become world class players.

"Then, when they return to Australia, they will be able to pass on the knowledge that they have learned to help the sport of Futsal in this country".

These are exciting times for Futsal in Australia, and these may be the programmes needed for the sport to reach its maturity in the land "Down Under".

EURO 2004 WRAP-UP

Tournament Statistics

MOST GOALS SCORED
5 - Milan Baros (Czech Republic)
4 - Wayne Rooney (England), Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands)

MOST GOAL ASSISTS
4 - Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic)
3 - Arjen Robben (Netherlands)
2 - David Beckham (England), Deco (Portugal), Michael Owen (England), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Vassilios Tsiartas (Greece)

Karel Poborsky: The Czech midfielder topped the tournament in goal assists, crosses made and completed.

MOST SHOTS SAVED
26 - Aleksandrs Kolinko (Latvia)
21 - Antonis Nikopolidis (Greece)
19 - Tomislav Butina (Croatia), Andreas Isaksson (Sweden)

MOST TACKLES MADE
59 - Theodoros Zagorakis (Greece)
36 - Costas Katsouranis (Greece)
35 - Yourkas Seitaridis (Greece), Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Netherlands)

MOST PASSES COMPLETED
317 - Maniche (Portugal)
296 - Deco (Portugal)
283 - Philip Cocu (Netherlands)

MOST CROSSES MADE
68 - Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic)
64 - Luis Figo (Portugal)
50 - Deco (Portugal)

MOST CROSSES COMPLETED
24 - Karel Poborsky (Czech Republic)
18 - David Beckham (England)
16 - Vicente (Spain)

Thierry Henry: Despite leading the tournament in shots, the French striker could only find the target twice.

MOST SHOTS
22 - Thierry Henry (France)
22 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands)
19 - Deco (Portugal)

SHOTS ON TARGET
11 - Thierry Henry (France)
10 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands)
8 - Michael Ballack (Germany)

SHOTS WIDE
11 - Thierry Henry (France)
10 - Christian Vieri (Italy)
9 - Deco (Portugal), Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands)

FREE KICKS CONCEDED
26 - Milan Baros (Czech Republic)
23 - Deco (Portugal)

FOULS COMMITTED
22 - Deco (Portugal)
20 - Theodoros Zagorakis (Greece)
17 - Milan Baros (Czech Republic)

FOULS SUFFERED
29 - Deco (Portugal)
19 - Giogos Karagounis (Greece)
18 - Luis Figo (Portugal), Fredrik Ljungberg (Sweden)

MOST OFFSIDES
8 - Milan Baros (Czech Republic), Kevin Kuranyi (Germany), Ruud van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Zisis Vryzas (Greece)

RETIREMENTS
Fernando Couto (Portugal)
Rui Costa (Portugal)
Frank de Boer (Netherlands)
Marcel Desailly (France)
Ebbe Sand (Denmark)
Francesco Toldo (Italy)

REHHAGEL REMAINS AT HELM

The coach who led Greece to a remarkable upset in winning the European Championships will stay for two more years despite calls for him to coach his native Germany.

Otto Rehhagel "will honour his contract," said Vassilis Gagatsis, head of the Greek soccer federation. Gagatsis said the 65-year-old Rehhagel had turned down an offer to remain coach until 2008.

"He told me that he would be too old and didn't want go to the soccer field in a wheelchair," Gagatsis said.

Rehhagel, who is vacationing in Germany, has become a national hero in Greece and has been offered Greek citizenship. He was cheered by hundreds of thousands of fans who lined the streets of Athens in a homecoming celebration.

Otto Rehhagel: The German born coach will remain at the helm of the Greek national team.

Rehhagel extended his contract with Greece shortly before Euro 2004 in Portugal. He has made no public statements about his future since Greece's triumph.

"He is one of us," Gagatsis said. "He believed in the Greeks and ... gave the players the wings they needed to win. All Greeks thank him for what he has done. He had the ability to X-ray our opponents and read them well."

Pressure has been growing in Germany to hire Rehhagel before the country hosts the 2006 World Cup. The coach's position has been vacant since Germany was eliminated in the Euro 2004 group play.

In Greece, Rehhagel has been credited with transforming a team with no prominent players. He also had to deal with a domestic league plagued by fan violence and financial trouble.

Before beating Portugal in the final, Greece held powerful Spain to a tie and beat defending champion France and the talented Czech Republic.

ZAGORAKIS CROWNED EURO BEST

Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis: Player of Euro 2004.

Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis has been named as the player of Euro 2004 after leading the rank outsiders to victory in the final over Portugal.

The AEK Athens midfielder was a commanding figure as a team that had never before won a match at a major international finals before beating Portugal in the opening match and went on to silence the host nation with a 1-0 win in the final.

Zagorakis, 32, led by example as Greece edged out Spain and Ukraine to top their qualifying group for the tournament, playing all eight qualifiers and helping his side to six clean sheets in six victories.

Once in Portugal, Zagorakis marshalled the defence superbly, providing the basis for the remarkable victories over Euro 2000 champions France, the Czech Republic and then Portugal.

The result was announced by UEFA's technical study group, the group of coaches and technical experts who are compiling a report on technical and tactical trends to arise from the competition.

The presentation of the Player of the Tournament trophy will be arranged around the UEFA Football Gala in Monaco on 26 August, at events which herald the start of the new European season.

FANS FLOCK TO EURO FINALS

More than 1,100,000 people attended matches at the EURO 2004 finals, meaning the tournament attracted more spectators than the tournament four years ago.

A total of 1,165,192 fans poured through the gates at the ten stadiums around Portugal, up from the 1,126,443 spectators present in Belgium and the Netherlands in summer 2000. The 31 matches in Portugal were watched by an average of 37,587 supporters, which compared favourably to the average from the 31 games four years ago, with 36,337 the mean spectator figure in the Low Countries.

Dedicated fans from all over the world and Portugal (pictured) made Euro 2004 one of the best ever supported tournaments.

Unsurprisingly, it was the final at Lisbon's magnificent Estádio da Luz that drew the biggest attendance of the competition, with 62,865 fans seeing Greece defeat the hosts to clinch their first major international honour.

Portugal's epic quarter-final with England was watched by 62,564, the second highest attendance, while 62,487 were present for France's dramatic victory against England in the opening round of matches in Group B. All three games were played at the Luz, home of Benfica.

However, despite the impressive figures, EURO 2004 was not the best-supported UEFA European Championship finals. Since the tournament became a 16-team event eight years ago, England hold that record having attracted a total of 1,276,171 fans – at an average of 41,167 spectators per game – to EURO 96.

The highest average attendance, meanwhile, was 56,656 for the 1988 finals in West Germany.

FIVE GREEKS HEAD ALL-STAR SQUAD

Five members of the winning Greek team were included in the squad of the best players of Euro 2004 chosen by European football's governing body UEFA.

Goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis, defenders Traianos Dellas and Georgios Seitaridis, captain Theodoros Zagorakis - who was also voted the player of the tournament - and Angelos Charisteas, the goalscorer in the 1-0 victory over Portugal in the final, were all named in the 23-man squad.

Five members of the Greek national team were voted in the squad of the best players of Euro 2004.

Portugal contributed defender Ricardo Carvalho, attacking midfielder Maniche, the veteran Luis Figo and 19-year-old Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo.

For beaten quarter-finalists England, defenders Ashley Cole and Sol Campbell and midfielder Frank Lampard were named as well as the sensation of the tournament, 18-year-old striker Wayne Rooney.

Czech striker Milan Baros earned his place after finishing as the tournament's top scorer with five goals while Zinedine Zidane was the only French player to impress after an ill-starred defence of their title ended at the hands of Greece in the quarter-finals.

FULL SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS: Petr Cech (CZE), Antonios Nikopolidis (GRE).

DEFENDERS: Sol Campbell (ENG), Ashley Cole (ENG), Traianos Dellas (GRE), Olof Mellberg (SWE), Ricardo Carvalho (POR), Georgios Seitaridis (GRE), Gianluca Zambrotta (ITA).

MIDFIELDERS: Michael Ballack (GER), Luis Figo (POR), Frank Lampard (ENG), Maniche (POR), Pavel Nedved (CZE), Theodoros Zagorakis (GRE), Zinedine Zidane (FRA).

STRIKERS: Milan Baros (CZE), Angelos Charisteas (GRE), Henrik Larsson (SWE), Cristiano Ronaldo (POR), Wayne Rooney (ENG), Jon Dahl Tomasson (DEN), Ruud van Nistelrooy (NED).

WORLD RANKINGS

Rank	Team	Points
1	Brazil	835
2	France	813
3	Spain	792
4	Czech Republic	762
5	Netherlands	748
6	Mexico	743
7	USA	735
8	England	733
9	Italy	729
10	Turkey	723
11	Argentina	722
12	Portugal	715
12	Germany	715
14	Greece	710
15	Denmark	706
16	Cameroon	702
16	Republic of Ireland	702
18	Nigeria	697
19	Sweden	686
20	Korea Republic	670
21	Iran	664
21	Saudi Arabia	664
23	Croatia	662
24	Japan	660
24	Belgium	660
26	Russia	655
27	Poland	653
28	Senegal	651
29	Paraguay	650
29	Costa Rica	650
31	Morocco	646
32	Romania	638
32	Uruguay	638
34	Egypt	637
35	Tunisia	634
36	Colombia	622
37	Ecuador	616
38	Norway	613
39	South Africa	610
40	Jordan	605
41	Bulgaria	602
42	Slovenia	598
43	Iraq	582
44	Finland	578
45	Switzerland	577
46	Mali	576
46	Zimbabwe	576
48	Serbia and Montenegro	574
49	Jamaica	565
50	Venezuela	562
51	Bahrain	559
52	Australia	556
53	Latvia	555
54	Honduras	553
54	Qatar	553
56	Kuwait	552
57	Algeria	550
58	Oman	548
59	Scotland	545
60	Israel	544
61	Wales	541
62	Côte d'Ivoire	539
63	Trinidad and Tobago	536
64	China PR	535
64	Thailand	535
66	Chile	534
66	Cuba	534
66	Slovakia	534
69	Congo DR	532
70	Libya	525
71	United Arab Emirates	523
71	Ghana	523
73	Bosnia-Herzegovina	522
74	Zambia	521
75	Peru	518
75	Iceland	518
77	Ukraine	515
78	Hungary	514
78	Angola	514
80	Uzbekistan	513

GREECE SOAR IN RANKINGS

European champions Greece have soared 21 places to their highest position of 14th in FIFA's latest rankings.

Brazil remained top for the 25th straight month, ahead of second-placed France, beaten 1-0 by Greece in the Euro 2004 quarter-finals when they were defending their European title.

The Czech Republic rose seven places to fourth after their semi-final finish in Portugal while the United States advanced to an all-time high of No. 7. Spain remain in third despite being knocked out in the group stage in Portugal.

Greece, which was ranked as low as 59th as recently as March 2002, jumped "possibly the greatest ever number of places in the upper reaches of the ranking," soccer's governing body said.

Greece has moved 21 spots to 14th in FIFA's latest world rankings.

The rankings are a computer calculation of the relative strength of national teams based on results the previous eight years.

England, beaten by Portugal in the Euro quarters, returned to the top 10 after a two-month absence. The English moved up five places to eighth and were followed by Italy and Turkey.

Argentina, which had gone winless in three games before a 2-1 victory over Peru on July 1, dropped six places to 11th.

Portugal have risen 10 places to equal 12th with Germany who fell four places after being knocked out in the Euro 2004 first round.

Germany could well fall further because of the lack of competitive fixtures in the run-up to the 2006 World Cup which they host.

MANCINI TO MANAGE INTER

Roberto Mancini has taken over as coach of Inter Milan, joining the Serie A side on a three-year deal after resolving a dispute with Lazio.

The 39-year-old succeeds Alberto Zaccheroni, who resigned last month after only eight months in charge.

"FC Internazionale communicates that it has sealed the signing of Roberto Mancini. The coach has put pen to paper on a contract which ties him to the club until 30 June 2007," Inter said in a statement on its website.

His appointment ends months of speculation in the Italian media, which even before the end of last season reported Inter owner Massimo Moratti had decided to replace Zaccheroni with Mancini.

Roberto Mancini: Takes over the reigns at Inter Milan.

When Zaccheroni resigned, Inter president Giacinto Facchetti told a shareholders meeting Mancini would sign for Inter within days, but his move was slowed by a dispute with Lazio, with whom he had a contract until 2008.

Lazio's decision to release Mancini, however, opened the way for him to take up the Inter post.

Mancini, who as a player won Serie A titles with Sampdoria and Lazio as well as making 36 international appearances for Italy, is considered one of the brightest young coaches in Serie A.

MEANWHILE Inter have signed defender Nicolas Burdisso from Argentine side Boca Juniors.

Burdisso, who signed a four-year deal with the Italian giants, has made three appearances for Argentina.

With Boca, the 23-year-old won two Argentine league titles, three Libertadores Cups and two Intercontinental Cups, including last December's victory against Inter's arch-rivals AC Milan.

Burdisso is Inter's fourth close-season signing after the arrivals of midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron from Chelsea, defender Giuseppe Favalli from Lazio and midfielder Esteban Cambiasso, whose contract with Real Madrid expired last month.

WENGER SAYS NO TO GERMAN JOB

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has turned down an approach to become new coach of Germany.

Wenger, who hails from the French region of Alsace which has a strong Germanic culture, insists he will see out his contract with Arsenal.

"I have a contract with Arsenal until 2005 and I intend to respect it," Wenger told Kicker magazine.

"What's more the club would not let me go because there are only three or four weeks to the start of the season."

Former Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and Fenerbahce boss Christoph Daum have already ruled themselves out of contention in the race to succeed Rudi Voller.

Arsene Wenger: Has turned down an approach to coach Germany.

KEZMAN ON A MISSION

Serbia and Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman insists he is born to score for Chelsea.

Kezman, who will join the Blues from Dutch league runners-up PSV Eindhoven once his work permit application is processed, blasted 105 goals for PSV in 122 matches since his move from Partizan Belgrade four years ago.

And he has scored twice in five outings for his country.

"Scoring goals is the only mission in my life. I cannot get enough of them," Kezman told the Daily Express.

"Defenders and midfield players can be formed, but as a goalscorer you are born. I know that the defenders in England will be better than in Holland but the quality of my team-mates will be better too, and that is the most important thing."

Kezman is determined to become one of Europe's top forwards but accepts it may not happen immediately.

"I am not in a hurry," he added. "I am only 25 and will take my time. The best strikers in the world are all two or three years older than me."

RANGERS GET NOVO STRIKER

Striker Nacho Novo completed his move to Scottish giants Rangers and manager Alex McLeish wants further new faces as he attempts to overhaul double-winners Celtic.

Spaniard Novo turned down Rangers' Glasgow rivals, opting to waive his fee to secure the 450,000 pound transfer from Dundee.

Novo, 25, will team up with France defender Jean-Alain Boumsong, Croatia striker Dado Prso, Alex Rae and Marvin Andrews as the newboys at Ibrox.

Serbia and Montenegro's Dragan Mladenovic will join from Red Star Belgrade if he can secure a work permit and Manchester United's Scotland midfielder Michael Stewart is on trial at the club.

But with the sale of Mikel Arteta to Real Sociedad close to completion and the future of Australia's Craig Moore in severe doubt, McLeish knows he could soon be in a position to recruit more players, with midfield now the priority.

Nacho Novo: Says no to Celtic and will move to Rangers.

"I would like to add two more players to the squad. I know where I would like to strengthen further," said McLeish.

"I don't think this will be my last signing. I am looking for competition for places throughout the team."

Novo scored 25 goals for a struggling Dundee side last season and McLeish was in no doubt as to his main attributes.

"He has got great pace and in this game pace always frightens defenders," he said. "Nacho has scored a lot of goals since coming to Scotland, first with Raith Rovers and then Dundee."

Novo said that he had been flattered to have been the subject of a tug of war between Scotland's two superclubs.

"It's great that two big clubs wanted me. Celtic are a big club but I preferred to come here," he said.

"This is a big club - one of the biggest in Europe."

The courting of Novo had been a long, complicated saga that had seen Celtic put in a higher offer than Rangers.

McLeish added: "Although results may not show this, Celtic and Rangers are two of the greatest clubs in the world and I thought in the end it would come down to personal choice."

RED DEVILS SIGN ITALIAN TEEN

FA Cup holders Manchester United have completed the signing of teenage striker Giuseppe Rossi from Parma.

The 16-year-old has already played for the Italian under-19 side and is highly thought of as one of Europe's most talented youngsters.

As the American-born teenager was not on a professional contract at Italian Serie A side Parma, the English Premiership giants will have to pay only a small sum in compensation.

Although it is envisaged Rossi will further his United education in the club's academy structure during the forthcoming campaign, his arrival is another attempt to safeguard the club's future by manager Alex Ferguson.

The Red Devils boss launched his teenage offensive last week signing Barcelona's Gerard Pique, amid some frustration from the Catalan giants.

The most famous teenage arrival of all though was Cristiano Ronaldo 12 months ago.

Ronaldo shone during his first season with the Red Devils, scoring in the FA Cup final win over Millwall.

MATTEO JOINS LEEDS EXODUS

Scotland defender Dominic Matteo became the latest player to leave relegated Leeds United after signing a three-year deal with Blackburn Rovers.

Matteo, who was club captain at Leeds, moves to Ewood Park on a free transfer.

Debt-laden Leeds have been forced to offload their top players after relegation from the premier league last season.

England striker Alan Smith was sold to Manchester United for just over seven million pounds ($13 million), goalkeeper Paul Robinson joined Tottenham Hotspur in a two million pounds deal and teenage midfielder James Milner was sold to Newcastle.

Dominic Matteo: The Scotland defender is moving from Leeds to Blackburn.

Versatile Matteo joined Leeds from Liverpool in 2000 but suffered a succession of injuries that interrupted his Elland Road career.

He was handed the captain's armband by former boss Terry Venables following Rio Ferdinand's departure for Manchester United in the 2002 close season.

BARCA BARGAIN FOR DECO

Portugal midfielder Deco has signed a four-year contract with Barcelona, and says the Catalan side was the only club he wanted to join after deciding to leave European champions Porto.

"If I could have chosen any club in the world to join it would have been Barca," the 26-year-old told a news conference in Barcelona.

"Barcelona showed an interest in me last season, but Porto didn't want me to leave and the president asked me to stay on another year. Now I've chosen Barca because it's a massive and historic club and I was always keen to come here."

Barcelona agreed to pay Porto between 12 and 15 million euros plus Portuguese winger Ricardo Quaresma in exchange for the Brazilian-born playmaker.

Barca president Joan Laporta said he was delighted Deco had opted for the Catalan club in preference to English premier league side Chelsea, who were also interested in signing the talented midfielder.

"It's an historic day for Barcelona," he said. "Deco is a player that can help lead us to success and is one of those special players with his own particular magic."

"You can tell he has been playing competitive football up until two days ago because he's in very good physical shape," said chief of Barcelona's medical staff Jordi Ardevol.

Portugal's Deco is delighted with his move to Barcelona.

"His knee is in perfect condition and you can tell what sort of player he is because of the very good stamina he showed in the tests."

Deco is the fourth new player to join Barca since the club finished second to Valencia in the Primera Liga last season.

They have already signed Brazil international defender Juliano Belletti from Villarreal, French midfielder Ludovic Giuly and Swedish striker Henrik Larsson.

REAL OFFER FOR BAROS

Milan Baros, top scorer at Euro 2004, confirmed that Real Madrid had made an offer to his English Premiership club Liverpool.

"Real Madrid have made a concrete offer but it is still a question of discussions," Baros told Czech TV.

"It is only an offer. I still have a contract with Liverpool and go back there on July 19," he added.

Baros joined Liverpool from Banik Ostrava in 2002. He missed six months after breaking his ankle at Blackburn last September and when fit again struggled to break into former manager Gerard Houllier's starting eleven.

Liverpool may be reluctant to sell Baros given his excellent form for the Czechs and the fact that fellow striker Michael Owen is only likely to sign a contract extension to his current deal.

Baros, 22, had previously indicated he wanted to stay at Liverpool and prove himself to new boss Rafael Benitez. His contract runs until 2007.

Baros, who scored five goals for the Czechs before they were knocked out by a silver goal by Greece in the semi-finals, said he would swap all his goals to have seen the Czechs progress to the final.

"I am very happy to be the leading scorer of the tournament but I have mixed feelings. At the same time I am sad that we did not make it to the final. When I watched the final on television I felt that we should have been there," he said.

"I would have given back those goals for our team to have been in that final," he added.

Liverpool striker Milan Baros says Real Madrid are interested in acquiring his services.

SEVILLE SETTLE ON RENATO

Brazil midfielder Renato has agreed a five-year deal with Sevilla. Spanish media reported that Sevilla would pay Santos a fee of approximately five million euros for the 25-year-old who is playing for Brazil in the Copa America.

Renato was instrumental in the Santos team which won the Brazilian championship in 2002 and reached the final of the South American Libertadores Cup last year.

The defensive midfielder is admired for his technique, anticipation in the tackle and unflappable temperament.

Renato denied the move would unsettle him while playing at the Copa America where Brazil face Costa Rica, Chile and Paraguay in Group C.

"It's not going to affect my concentration," he said. "My aim is to help Brazil here and strengthen my claim for a regular place in the team."

Renato will join fellow Brazilians Julio Baptista and Daniel Alves at Sevilla, who qualified for the UEFA Cup after an impressive sixth-place finish in the Primera Liga last season.

COPA AMERICA - GROUP A/B

Peru 2004

COLUMBIA CRUISE INTO QUARTERS

COLUMBIA 1
BOLIVIA 0

A last-minute header by substitute Edixon Perea gave Colombia a 1-0 win over Bolivia, putting the defending Copa America champions into the quarter-finals with maximum points from their first two games.

Perea, recently promoted from the under-20 national team, outjumped the Bolivia defence to send a looping header into the goal 13 minutes after coming on.

The result was harsh on a Bolivian side that had little possession but marked their opponents very closely, pulling back almost all of their players into their own half most of the game to frustrate the Colombian attack.

Columbia's Oscar Diaz (right) gets upended by Bolivia's Limbert Pizarro.

Bolivia, who drew 2-2 with hosts Peru in their first match despite being considered the tournament's weakest team, again showed they were no pushovers, attacking with confidence in the second half.

Their best chance came when midfielder Limberg Gutierrez's shot was cleared off the line just after the break.

Colombia striker Tressor Moreno linked well with playmaker David Ferreira throughout the match, but the shot-shy pair had nothing to show for their quick passing moves.

Moreno's best chance came in the 60th minute after a exchanging passes with fellow striker Sergio Herrera, but he ballooned his shot over the bar from close range.

Bolivia's veteran captain Luis Cristaldo - a survivor from the 1994 World Cup team - made an early exit after he was injured in midway through the first half.

PERU 3
VENEZUELA 1

A red card for Peru captain Claudio Pizarro spoilt the party for the Copa America hosts as they beat Venezuela 3-1 for their first win of the tournament in Lima's National Stadium.

With the top two teams in each group going through plus the two best third-placed sides, Peru are set to join Colombia barring an almost impossible combination of results.

But the hosts will hope that Bayern Munich striker Pizarro, whose unwavering dedication makes him their inspiration, will get nothing more than an automatic one-match suspension.

Peru were already 3-1 up when Pizarro was given his marching orders for a late challenge, having been cautioned for simulation only a few minutes before.

Venezuela also finished with ten men after Miguel Mea Vitali was dismissed for two bookable offences in the 64th minute.

Peru, held 2-2 by underdogs Bolivia in their first outing, went ahead when Venezuela goalkeeper Gilberto Angelucci mistimed an attempt to intercept the ball and allowed PSV Eindhoven's new signing Jefferson Farfan to score into an empty net in the 34th minute.

Nolberto Solano added the second in the 61st, firing home Andres Mendoza's cross from 12 meters, and then set up the third for Santiago Acasiete eleven minutes later, floating over a free kick which the defender met with a perfect diving header.

Massimo Margiotta, who played for Italy in the Sydney Olympics before switching allegiances under FIFA's new nationality rules, scored the consolation with his first goal for Venezuela.

The Vicenza player was born in Venezuela of Italian parents.

Colombia lead Group A with a maximum six points from two games, followed by Peru with four, Bolivia with one and Venezuela with none.

Peru's Jefferson Farfan celebrates after scoring the opening goal against Venezuela.

MORALES MAGIC SINKS UNSETTLED ARGENTINA

URUGUAY 2
ECUADOR 1

Striker Carlos Bueno scrambled a late winner as Uruguay beat Ecuador 2-1 in the Copa America for their first win under coach Jorge Fossati in his fifth game in charge.

Diego Forlan had put the Uruguayans ahead in the 61st minute with his ninth goal in 18 internationals but substitute Franklin Salas equalised in the 73rd.

Uruguay, who fired Juan Ramon Carrasco and brought in Fossati in April, have four points from two games in Group B while Ecuador, beaten 6-1 by Argentina, remain pointless.

Forlan had an excellent match playing behind the front pair until he was replaced by Diego Perez just after scoring.

He was the first to test Ecuador goalkeeper Giovanny Ibarra with a low header in the 15th minute and was unlucky not to score with a shot on the turn which flew over the bar.

Uruguay's aerial attacks repeatedly had Ecuador in trouble as they enjoyed the better of the first half.

Captain Paolo Montero headed against the post in the 28th minute after Ibarra failed to cut out an inswinging corner, another effort was cleared off the line and Joe Bizera was also close with another header.

Montero, who has made a comeback two years after announcing his international retirement, picked up the first suspension of his return when he was booked in the eighth minute, his second yellow card in successive games.

He limped off injured in the 60th minute and was replaced by Alejandro Lago.

Uruguay finally went ahead just after the hour mark when Forlan collected the ball inside the Ecuador half, carried the ball forward and unleashed a dipping shot from 25 metres which caught a static Ibarra completely off his guard.

Salas equalised for Ecuador when he fired home from a rebound, beating Luis Barbat with a low shot from near the penalty spot.

Uruguay, whose last win was against Chile in a World Cup qualifier last November, seemed about to extend their winless run to seven matches until Bueno scored from a rebound with 12 minutes remaining.

Carlos Bueno of Uruguay reacts after scoring the winning goal in the win over Ecuador.

ARGENTINA 0
MEXICO 1

Mexico brought Argentina crashing back to earth when a brilliant Ramon Morales free kick was enough to give them a 1-0 victory in their Copa America Group B match.

The defeat will put the pressure back on Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa after it had been briefly lifted with the 6-1 demolition of Ecuador.

Bielsa has become increasingly unpopular with Argentine fans and there is speculation he may not survive a poor tournament.

Argentina, who dropped to third in the group with three points from two games behind Uruguay and Mexico, never managed to find the flowing football they produced against Ecuador.

Javier Saviola, who scored a hat-trick against Ecuador, produced only fleeting patches of his best form.

Argentina made a bright start but were stunned in the ninth minute when Morales opened the scoring with a swerving free kick which flew into the top corner past helpless goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri.

The goal unsettled the Argentines, who resorted to some rough tackling to halt the Mexican counter attacks.

Jesus Arellano, in particular, was a menace to the Argentines almost every time he got the ball.

Mexico had an excellent chance to increase their lead just before halftime when Jared Borgetti was first to Pavel Pardo's free kick, but his header was weak and easily saved.

Almost immediately at the other end, Argentine striker Cesar Delgado popped up unmarked on the right to meet a floated cross from Andres D'Alessandro but he fired his effort over the crossbar.

Argentina took control after halftime, forcing a flurry of corners in the first quarter of an hour.

They were twice denied by goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez, who blocked a shot by Luis Gonzalez and then brilliantly pushed away Roberto Ayala's header following a corner.

After that, the Argentine storm blew itself out. Mexico had one last scare when substitute Luciano Figueroa headed just wide from a Cristian Gonzalez cross.

Mexico's Ramon Morales (14) scores from a free kick against Argentina.

COPA AMERICA - GROUP C

Peru 2004

Adriano treble sends Brazil into quarters

BRAZIL 4
COSTA RICA 1

A treble from Adriano helped world champions Brazil cruise to a 4-1 win over Costa Rica and seal a place in the Copa America quarter-finals.

The Inter Milan striker's performance lifted Brazil after the Group C favourites had struggled to find their rhythm in the early stages of the match.

"To score a hat-trick for Brazil is not something that happens everyday. I am more than satisfied," said Adriano.

"I knew I needed to score because I was I'm competing with excellent players like Luis Fabiano, Ricardo Oliveira and Wagner Love," the Inter Milan striker said.

His strong running and accurate finishing tore holes in the Costa Rica defence after the Central American nation had looked the better side in a poor first half.

As the half drew to a close, midfielder Alex received the ball from defender Mancini and picked out Adriano with a raking cross.

Adriano turned inside goalkeeper Ricardo Gonzalez and launched his shot high over back-pedalling defenders and into the roof of the net.

Costa Rica were still holding their own after the break before defender Mauricio Wright gave the ball away and Brazil broke swiftly to allow Juan a free run on goal. The central defender slotted his shot neatly past Gonzalez.

Costa Rica's Colombian coach Jorge Luis Pinto flapped his arms in despair when Gonzalez missed a cross and allowed Adriano to head his second in the 54th minute, putting the game beyond Costa Rica's reach.

Adriano completed his hat-trick by slotting the ball under Gonzalez's sprawling body 13 minutes later.

Julio dos Santos headed a consolation for Costa Rica nine minutes from time however it was too little too late.

Brazil's Diego (right) is pulled down by Costa Rica's Andy Del Herron.

Christaldo stuns Chile with spectacular strike

PARAGUAY 1
CHILE 1

A blistering drive by Ernesto Cristaldo helped Paraguay salvage a 1-1 draw against Chile in their Copa America Group C clash.

Sebastian Gonzalez put Chile ahead on 72 minutes but Cristaldo's 35-yard thunderbolt seven minutes later rescued a well-deserved point in a finely-balanced game.

Neither team could afford to lose this match, since Chile had lost to Brazil in their opening game and Paraguay, although victorious against Costa Rica in their first Copa match last week, will face the world champions in their final game.

The two teams fought out a midfield battle in the first half, but later served up some good attacking football as both chased a positive result.

Chile's breakthrough came when substitute Mauricio Aros worked the ball down the left wing.

His low outswinging cross almost escaped Gonzalez but the striker, who plays with Mexican club Atlante, managed to hook a half-volley into the goal from a tight angle.

Paraguay redoubled their efforts in attack, and Cristaldo's spectacular shot lifted the local crowd in the Andean city of Arequipa.

Paraguay are in second place in Group C with four points after beating Costa Rica 1-0 in their opening game.

Chile will need to beat Costa Rica to keep their Copa America hopes alive after losing 1-0 to Brazil.

Paraguay's Ernesto Cristaldo celebrates after scoring a goal against Chile.

COPA AMERICA TO DATE

GROUP A

Venezuela	0	Colombia	1
Peru	2	Bolivia	2
Colombia	1	Bolivia	0
Peru	3	Venezuela	1

Tuesday July 13
Venezuela vs Bolivia
Peru vs Colombia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Peru	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Bolivia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Venezuela	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP B

Mexico	2	Uruguay	2
Argentina	6	Ecuador	1
Uruguay	2	Ecuador	1
Argentina	0	Mexico	1

Wednesday July 14
Mexico vs Ecuador
Argentina vs Uruguay

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Mexico	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

GROUP C

Paraguay	1	Costa Rica	0
Brazil	1	Chile	0
Paraguay	1	Chile	1
Brazil	4	Costa Rica	1

Thursday, July 15
Costa Rica vs Chile
Brazil vs Paraguay

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Paraguay	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Chile	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

QUARTER-FINALS

Sunday, July 18
QF1 - Runners-up Grp A vs Runners-up Grp B
QF3 - Winners Grp A vs Second best 3rd place
Monday, July 19
QF4 - Winners Grp C vs Best 3rd place
QF2 - Winners Grp B vs Runners-up Grp C

SEMI-FINALS

Wednesday, July 21
Winner QF1 vs Winner QF3
Thursday, July 22
Winner QF2 vs Winner QF4
Sunday, July 25
Third-place playoff - Cusco
Monday, July 26
Final - Lima

SBS TO SCREEN COPA AMERICA?

By Mark Stavroulakis

South American fans beware, soccer's real television station SBS could unearth a huge exclusive for lovers of the Latin game very soon.

SBS is currently in negotiations in screening the semi-finals and finals of the Copa America currently being played in Peru.

South American fans have made enquires to *ABSW* all week about the live screening of this major event with one keen Argentine fan, Paolo Hasena from Dulwich Hill stating that a television station must do something about this issue.

"Its not fair when you see Foxtel screen all the matches of the Euro 2004 and nothing for the Copa America. Our Copa is just as if not more important than the Euro".

SBS's head of sport Les Murray stated to the '*Sun Herald*' last week that the rights should swing the station's way.

"I'm 90 per cent sure we'll be able to bring the latter stage of the tournament to our viewers".

Its been seen that Australian viewers have been pumped with top coverage's from the English Premier League and the European game but not much emphasis has seen the South American sector gain any form of a plug on the box. Its believed that the main problem Australia has faced in showing matches from South America has been due to the fact that the nations have asked for far too much money in gaining the rights for any matches.

ABSW will keep readers updated with this issue, rest assured, the weekly will do all that it can in providing its South American readers the best possible coverage on this year's Copa America.

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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

Gunners fire warning shot at toothless Tigers

By Paul Goodwin

The Northern Tigers lost their bite over the weekend, drawing with a hard working Ryde City Gunners side.

The derby at Magdala Park - switched from a waterlogged Parklands Oval - attracted a reasonable crowd and ended in a tense and highly competitive 1-1 draw.

The Tigers were the home side, but they found themselves playing on their opponent's homeground when their Mount Colah pitch was discovered to be already under water on the Saturday morning after heavy rain, a full day before the game.

Moves were quickly taken to have the match played elsewhere, Ryde's ground at Magdala being available for this purpose.

Ryde suffered a blow when, in the 11th minute, key midfield thinker Steve Baveas made a block tackle and came off second best. He could not continue and will await the advice of the medicos before resuming with Ryde.

With Baveas out, Ryde City looked a little suspect in the ball winning department and the Tigers exploited this to go ahead in the 28th minute, with a goal from the penalty spot.

Jason Mesiti must be singled out for some difficult chances that were not taken; otherwise the 'home' side might well have put the game beyond the reach of the Ryde team well before the break.

The Northern Tigers' midfielder Mesiti was, at least twice, the last man on the scene in attempting to convert chances of scoring the early goal.

After a good piece of lead-up work Marcus Frost nodded wide in the seventh minute for the more Northerly of the two sides.

But good lead-up work from Ryde brought the local crowd to its feet in the 12th minute.

Damien Pisano was on the end of a move begun by Oliver Skelding, which looked like yielding the first goal only for the ball to be steered just wide by Pisano.

Anthony Oppedisano raced into the box to chase a fifty-fifty ball in the 17th but the keeper, who appeared to take off a split second too late, made the ground up quickly to claim the ball, even if he did require attention from the physio moments later.

Two minutes later Mesiti was fed a good ball by Nick Femia and ultimately sent Frost into the box only for three Ryde men to converge on him and one of them, Glen Willis, to bring him down. The spot kick was put away well by Oppedisano, the team's penalty ace.

Northern Tigers thus held the advantage right up until half time and could have easily had a second goal, with Mesiti once again firing into the side netting in the 43rd.

The Tigers' keeper was kept busy dealing with some sharp shooters from Ryde who kept working hard to get back in the game.

Northern Tigers	**1**
Ryde City Gunners	**1**

The match began to move in the Tigers' direction thereafter, but the crucial second goal just would not come.

Instead, the plucky Ryde, never once losing sight of the point they needed more than the Tigers, fought on well and earned themselves a draw with a late penalty.

Nick Carle, snapped up during the week for Ryde, was not included in the starting line-up and was left languishing on the bench until the 56th minute.

Carle then saw plenty of ball without looking threatening, once introduced by his coach.

Tigers' coach Fred Mesiti had already sent a man on to counter Carle, but instead the player ventured forward without reward and the ex Marconi star found some extra space to work in.

Carle raced up field in a swift counter-attack in the 85th minute and as he reached the penalty area he made contact with a Ryde defender, Oppedisano.

Carle fell in spectacular style bringing an immediate response from referee Ernie Horvath. Just as he had done in the first half when awarding the Tigers a spot kick, Horvath pointed to the spot.

The offence looked bad, largely due to Carle's forward momentum, but the goal scoring opportunity had come against the general run of play it has to be said.

To many it looked as if the player had been fouled outside the area, but he may well have fallen inside it and where he landed made all the difference here.

Ryde's regular penalty taker Alex Wilkinson stepped up and sent Crews diving, but too late.

Northern Tigers coach Fred Mesiti was disappointed that his team's seven game unbeaten stretch did not include another three pointer here.

"We lost Adam Foti during the week, as he is off to Cyprus and poor Erik Paartalu got himself injured and his proposed trip to Europe is now also off," he said.

Northern Tigers missed Paartalu and Foti on this occasion, the latter for his finishing ability inside the box and the former for his ball-winning in the middle and for his creativity in the same area.

Ryde coach Jim Harte was delighted with the point. His side had worked hard throughout and clearly earned it.

NORTHERN TIGERS 1
(A Oppedisano 28' pen)
RYDE CITY GUNNERS 1
(A Wilkinson 86' pen)
at Magdala Park, Ryde

NORTHERN TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Michael Mouyis, Andrew Clark, Danny Hurwitz, Damon Thompson (C), Anthony Oppedisano, Nic Femia, Jason Mesiti (J Filippe Gutecez 85), Cameron Jones (Matt Hunter 55), Jordan Simpson, Marcus Frost
Subs not used: RGK: Ivan Aul, Scott Ryan, Matt Mesiti
Coach: Fred Mesiti

RYDE CITY GUNNERS: Dean McCreath, B J Van Wyk, Glen Willis, Simon Turner, Craig Pendlebury, Oliver Skelding (C), Alex Wilkinson, Chris Andrews, Steve Baveas (Daniel Nero 11, Nick Carle 56), Paul Nero (Tim Goodrick 73), Damien Pisano
Subs not used: RGK Michael Stern, Craig Young
Coach: Jim Harte
Referee: Ernie Horvath
Assistant Referees: Stephen Lucas and Michael Wiener
Fourth Official: Marc Nemorin
Yellow Cards: Northern Tigers: Cameron Jones 24, Andrew Clark 26, Marcus Frost 68); Ryde City Gunners: Damien Pisano 75, B J Van Wyk 90

ROUND 20 FIXTURES

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
Sun 18-Jul-04	Macarthur Rams	M.S.C.	Liverpool Park	3.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Hurstville City Minotaurs	Dulwich Hill	Rockdale Ilinden Sport	3.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Hurstville ZSC	Northern Tigers	Hurstville Oval	3.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Ryde City	Sydney University	Magdala Oval	3.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Stanmore Hawks	Fairfield Bulls	Arlington Oval	3.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Hajduk Wanderers Utd	Sutherland Sharks	Hajduk Stadium	4.00pm
Sun 18-Jul-04	Manly Warringah Dolphins	Fraser Park Dragons	Cromer Park	3.00pm
Round 19 Rescheduled Games				
Wed 11-Aug-04	Manly Warringah Dolphins	Hajduk Wanderers	Cromer Park	
Wed 11-Aug-04	Fraser Park Dragons	Sydney University	Fraser Park	
TBA	Sutherland Sharks	Stanmore Hawks	Seymour Shaw	

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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

Fairfield fiesta as Bulls run away with the win

By Paul Goodwin

Ozbey opted out, but the Bulls still crashed through with a stunning 3-1 victory over MSC Liverpool at the Nineveh Field on a wet Sunday afternoon in Sydney.

Fairfield star striker Tolgay Ozbey's departure - only five minutes into the match after missing training earlier in the week - was significant in the first half when neither the Bulls nor Liverpool could break the deadlock.

He chose to remove himself from the field after experiencing muscle twinges.

However, the Bulls luck changed just six minutes after the restart when the visitors took a surprise lead.

Daniel Willoughby, a key member of the successful Crescent Star side during the summer competition, lifted the ball towards goal and there was David Gardiner to head past Claudio Fernandez to give his side the lead.

Gardiner rose well to steer the ball to the right of the keeper and put his side in very good spirits so early in the second period.

But MSC's joy was short lived as Fairfield coach Hugh McCrory produced his super sub - comeback kid Tom Bazdaric - who immediately headed in the equaliser.

The veteran defender was last seen with the Camden Tigers, and came on as soon as the goal was scored by MSC and took over from defender and captain Mick Oliverio. Bazdaric has been off the scene for a while but did not look too rusty.

A corner was dispatched from the right by Ryan Jones and, there to meet the ball with a crisp header in the middle of the goalmouth, was Bazdaric whose scoring from set pieces in the past with Auburn and Macarthur Rams was the stuff of which legends are, and were, made.

With that goal under their belts Fairfield tore into MSC Liverpool.

In the 58th minute the Bulls hit the lead when a series of shots rained in as a frantic scramble took place in the penalty area. Eventually prolific striker Leigh Gunn bobbed up to steer the ball just inside the left post.

Gunn had missed a golden opportunity to give his side the lead in a busy first half where, after waltzing past the last defender, he faced the keeper only to clip the ball over the bar.

It was all Fairfield, though, as the game wound down and it came as no surprise when Samir Isa beat a man in the middle and set sail for goal in the 81st minute.

However unlike Gunn Isa did not miss, rounding the advancing keeper nicely to make it 3-1.

The Bulls consolidated third spot with the win, while the luckless Liverpool remains in second last spot, precariously placed just two points ahead of improvers, the Ryde City Gunners.

Fairfield Bulls	**3**
MSC Liverpool	**1**

Twister: Ryan Jones pulls off a sharp header

Head first: Fairfield Bulls' Sammy Isa puts his body on the line

FAIRFIELD BULLS 3
(T Bazdaric 54', L Gunn 58', S Isa 81')
MSC LIVERPOOL 1
(D Gardiner 51')
at Nineveh Field, Fairfield

FAIRFIELD BULLS: Claudio Fernandez, Mick Oliverio (C) (Tom Bazdaric 54), Tolgay Ozbey (Brendan Mitrovic 5, Paul Jurcevic 85), Dave Harding, Ryan O'Shea, Lisandro Barbis, Leigh Gunn, Samir Isa, Michael Cindric, Agyie Akwasi, Ryan Jones
Sub not used: RGK Khalid Kando
Coach: Hugh McCrory

MSC LIVERPOOL: Nick Jello, Peter Moon (C), David Gardiner, Ben Realph, Dominic Rossi (Eric Williams 65), Paul Bourke, Adam Burnett (Dave Lagudi 55), Daniel Willoughby, Chris Fallico, Daniel Kuzlow, Almir Bizdaric (Sasha Drca 85)
Subs not used: RGK Damir Zakisic, Anthony Casemento
Coach: Paul Carter

Referee: Peter Vrtkovski
Assistant Referees: Chris Griffiths-Jones and Sandro Perticarini

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PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 20:

GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams Gladesville Spirit SC Washed Out, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney Olympic 0 Marconi Stallions 5, Parramatta Eagles 2 Sydney United 3, Sutherland Shire 1 Wollongong Wolves 4, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Hajduk Wandereres UTD 0 Central Coast UTD 1.

GRADE 14: Macarthur Rams Gladesville Spirit SC Washed Out, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown City Demons 2, Sydney Olympic 1 Marconi Stallions 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 Sydney United 2, Sutherland Shire Wollongong Wolves Washed Out, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 2 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Hajduk Wandereres UTD 2 Central Coast UTD 1.

GRADE 15: Macarthur Rams Gladesville Spirit SC Washed Out, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown City Demons 4, Sydney Olympic 0 Marconi Stallions 0, Sutherland Shire Wollongong Wolves Washed Out, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0 Bankstown City Cubs 2, Hajduk Wandereres UTD 1 Central Coast UTD 2.

GRADE 16: Macarthur Rams Gladesville Spirit SC Washed Out, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney Olympic 0 Marconi Stallions 1, Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney United 2, Sutherland Shire Wollongong Wolves Washed Out, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0 Bankstown City Cubs 3, Hajduk Wandereres UTD 1 Central Coast UTD 1.

GRADE 18: Macarthur Rams Gladesville Spirit SC Washed Out, Newcastle United 3 Blacktown City Demons 4, Sydney Olympic 1 Marconi Stallions 3, Parramatta Eagles 1 Sydney United 2, Sutherland Shire Wollongong Wolves Washed Out, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Hajduk Wandereres UTD 2 Central Coast UTD 4.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City	20	15	2	3	54	15	39	47
Sydney United	20	13	3	4	48	24	24	42
Marconi Stallions	20	12	2	6	52	24	28	38
Parramatta Eagles	20	10	6	4	40	14	26	36
Bankstown City Cubs	20	11	3	6	30	19	11	36
Hajduk Wanderers	20	11	3	6	22	16	6	36
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	20	9	4	7	23	19	4	31
Gladesville Spirit SC	19	8	2	9	35	37	-2	26
Wollongong Wolves	20	6	6	8	27	31	-4	24
Newcastle United FC	20	5	6	9	23	38	-15	21
Central Coast United	20	5	4	11	13	28	-15	19
Sydney Olympic	20	5	2	13	18	38	-20	17
Sutherland Shire	20	3	4	13	15	45	-30	13
Macarthur Rams	19	2	1	16	15	67	-52	7

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City	20	14	4	2	49	12	37	46
Marconi Stallions	20	13	5	2	63	14	49	44
Parramatta Eagles	20	13	5	2	32	10	22	44
Gladesville Spirit SC	19	10	6	3	24	14	10	36
Sydney Olympic	20	10	5	5	27	11	16	35
Wollongong Wolves	19	10	3	6	32	22	10	33
Sutherland Shire	19	7	5	7	35	21	14	26
Newcastle United FC	20	7	5	8	25	32	-7	26
Hajduk Wanderers	20	5	8	7	25	30	-5	23
Bankstown City Cubs	20	6	4	10	24	28	-4	22
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	20	4	5	11	17	38	-21	17
Sydney United	20	4	1	15	18	45	-27	13
Macarthur Rams	19	2	4	13	16	58	-42	10
Central Coast United	20	2	2	16	13	65	-52	8

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	20	14	3	3	30	12	18	45
Parramatta Eagles	20	13	4	3	33	9	24	43
Sydney Olympic	20	12	4	4	38	18	20	40
Blacktown City	20	12	3	5	45	20	25	39
Gladesville Spirit SC	19	11	5	3	33	11	22	38
Central Coast United	20	8	4	8	21	27	-6	28
Sydney United	20	8	3	9	27	22	5	27
Newcastle United FC	20	8	2	10	28	28	0	26
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	20	5	7	8	13	20	-7	22
Bankstown City Cubs	20	5	7	8	13	21	-8	22
Macarthur Rams	19	5	5	9	20	39	-19	20
Sutherland Shire	19	3	7	9	19	26	-7	16
Wollongong Wolves	19	2	7	10	16	34	-18	13
Hajduk Wanderers	20	1	1	18	9	58	-49	4

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Parramatta Eagles	20	15	2	3	35	13	22	47
Marconi Stallions	20	10	5	5	28	17	11	35
Sydney United	20	11	2	7	30	25	5	35
Bankstown City Cubs	20	10	4	6	28	14	14	34
Sydney Olympic	20	10	4	6	27	15	12	34
Blacktown City	20	9	6	5	23	15	8	33
Sutherland Shire	19	9	1	9	25	23	2	28
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	20	8	4	8	20	24	-4	28
Gladesville Spirit SC	19	7	6	6	21	18	3	27
Newcastle United FC	20	6	7	7	27	30	-3	25
Wollongong Wolves	19	6	6	7	22	24	-2	24
Macarthur Rams	19	3	5	11	18	28	-10	14
Hajduk Wanderers	20	2	5	13	12	44	-32	11
Central Coast United	20	0	7	13	11	37	-26	7

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	20	12	4	4	39	21	18	40
Blacktown City	20	12	3	5	31	18	13	39
Wollongong Wolves	18	11	2	5	35	20	15	35
Sutherland Shire	19	10	3	6	39	23	16	33
Gladesville Spirit SC	19	10	3	6	30	23	7	33
Parramatta Eagles	20	9	5	6	37	27	10	32
Sydney Olympic	19	10	2	7	48	41	7	32
Sydney United	20	7	4	9	31	27	4	25
Hajduk Wanderers	20	7	4	9	30	36	-6	25
Macarthur Rams	19	7	3	9	32	44	-12	24
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	20	6	5	9	27	42	-15	23
Central Coast United	20	6	3	11	28	35	-7	21
Newcastle United FC	20	4	1	15	26	51	-25	13
Bankstown City Cubs	20	3	4	13	17	42	-25	13

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Blacktown City	100	62	18	20	202	80	122	204
Marconi Stallions	100	61	19	20	212	88	124	202
Parramatta Eagles	100	60	22	18	177	73	104	202
Gladesville Spirit	95	46	22	27	143	103	40	160
Sydney Olympic	99	47	17	35	158	123	35	158
Sydney United	100	43	13	44	154	143	11	142
Wollongong Wolves	95	35	24	36	132	131	1	129
Bankstown City	100	35	22	43	112	124	-12	127
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	100	32	25	43	100	143	-43	121
Sutherland Shire	96	32	20	44	133	138	-5	116
Newcastle Utd FC	100	30	21	49	129	179	-50	111
Hajduk Wanderers	100	26	21	53	98	184	-86	99
Central Coast Utd	100	21	20	59	86	192	-106	83
Macarthur Rams	95	19	18	58	101	236	-135	75

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 18:

GRADE 13: Granville Rage 4 Fairfield Bulls 1, Southern Branch 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3, Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 Fraser - Park Canterbury 1, Penrith Nepean UTD 3 St George 3, Schofields Scorpions 2 Northern Tigers 0, Hills United 0 Parramatta Star 1.

GRADE 14: Granville Rage 0 Fairfield Bulls 1, Southern Branch 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 5 Fraser - Park Canterbury 0, Penrith Nepean UTD 0 St George 0, Schofields Scorpions 1 Northern Tigers 0, Hills United 7 Parramatta Star 0.

GRADE 15: Granville Rage 0 Fairfield Bulls 1, Southern Branch 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Fraser - Park Canterbury 0, Penrith Nepean UTD 0 St George 1, Schofields Scorpions 3 Northern Tigers 2, Hills United 5 Parramatta Star 4.

GRADE 16: Granville Rage 0 Fairfield Bulls 1, Southern Branch 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Fraser - Park Canterbury 0, Penrith Nepean UTD 3 St George 1, Schofields Scorpions 1 Northern Tigers 3, Hills United 0 Parramatta Star 3.

GRADE 18: Granville Rage 1 Fairfield Bulls 2, Southern Branch 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Fraser - Park Canterbury 0, Penrith Nepean UTD 2 St George 3, Schofields Scorpions 1 Northern Tigers 0, Hills United 2 Parramatta Star 5.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	18	17	0	1	50	8	42	51
Parramatta Star	18	11	4	3	39	20	19	37
Bonnyrigg WE	18	10	4	4	27	13	14	34
Penrith Nepean Utd	18	8	7	3	24	17	7	31
St George	18	10	1	7	31	26	5	31
Granville Rage	18	8	5	5	21	15	6	29
Southern Branch	18	8	4	6	31	28	3	28
Schofield Scorpions	18	6	3	9	21	25	-4	21
Fraser Pk - C'bury	18	4	4	10	25	36	-11	16
Hills United Brumbies	18	3	3	12	16	30	-14	12
Northern Tigers	18	4	0	14	13	33	-20	12
Fairfield Bulls	18	1	1	16	9	56	-47	4

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
St George	18	13	4	1	43	9	34	43
Manly Warringah	18	12	2	4	30	13	17	38
Penrith Nepean Utd	18	9	7	2	22	8	14	34
Schofield Scorpions	18	9	5	4	26	18	8	32
Bonnyrigg WE	18	8	6	4	24	15	9	30
Southern Branch	18	5	7	6	24	27	-3	22
Hills United Brumbies	18	6	3	9	31	25	6	21
Granville Rage	18	5	3	10	15	21	-6	18
Fairfield Bulls	18	4	6	8	13	21	-8	18
Northern Tigers	18	4	5	9	16	28	-12	17
Fraser Pk - C'bury	18	3	6	9	10	36	-26	15
Parramatta Star	18	1	4	13	11	44	-33	7

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Northern Tigers	18	14	2	2	31	14	17	44
Schofield Scorpions	18	13	2	3	40	16	24	41
St George	18	12	2	4	35	17	18	38
Bonnyrigg WE	18	11	4	3	39	10	29	37
Penrith Nepean Utd	18	10	3	5	33	18	15	33
Southern Branch	18	8	2	8	32	29	3	26
Hills United Brumbies	18	7	4	7	29	30	-1	25
Parramatta Star	18	5	3	10	24	40	-16	18
Manly Warringah	18	5	1	12	14	33	-19	16
Granville Rage	18	4	1	13	16	31	-15	13
Fraser Pk - C'bury	18	3	3	12	15	31	-16	12
Fairfield Bulls	18	2	1	15	15	54	-39	7

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	18	15	0	3	29	6	23	45
St George	18	11	3	4	34	14	20	36
Penrith Nepean Utd	18	9	3	6	32	19	13	30
Parramatta Star	18	8	5	5	28	21	7	29
Fairfield Bulls	18	7	5	6	23	16	7	26
Bonnyrigg WE	18	7	5	6	25	25	0	26
Granville Rage	18	7	1	10	23	30	-7	22
Hills United Brumbies	18	7	1	10	26	35	-9	22
Schofield Scorpions	18	6	2	10	27	35	-8	20
Northern Tigers	18	5	3	10	20	31	-11	18
Fraser Pk - C'bury	18	4	5	9	12	30	-18	17
Southern Branch	18	3	5	10	18	35	-17	14

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Parramatta Star	18	14	2	2	63	20	43	44
Manly Warringah	18	12	5	1	48	15	33	41
Fairfield Bulls	18	8	7	3	34	24	10	31
St George	18	8	5	5	31	35	-4	29
Northern Tigers	18	9	1	8	30	24	6	28
Hills United Brumbies	18	8	3	7	35	29	6	27
Schofield Scorpions	18	8	3	7	40	37	3	27
Penrith Nepean Utd	18	8	1	9	30	29	1	25
Bonnyrigg WE	18	6	2	10	34	42	-8	20
Southern Branch	18	5	5	8	25	35	-10	20
Fraser Pk - C'bury	18	2	4	12	20	44	-24	10
Granville Rage	18	0	2	16	16	72	-56	2

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Manly Warringah	90	61	8	21	171	75	96	191
St George	90	54	15	21	174	101	73	177
Penrith Nepean Utd	90	44	21	25	141	91	50	153
Bonnyrigg WE	90	42	21	27	149	105	44	147
Schofield Scorpions	90	42	15	33	154	131	23	141
Parramatta Star	90	39	18	33	165	145	20	135
Northern Tigers	90	36	11	43	110	130	-20	119
Southern Branch	90	29	23	38	130	154	-24	110
Hills Utd Brumbies	90	31	14	45	137	149	-12	107
Fairfield Bulls	90	22	20	48	94	171	-77	86
Granville Rage	90	24	12	54	91	169	-78	84
Fraser Pk - C'bury	90	16	22	52	82	177	-95	70

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 18:

GRADE 13: Belmore Hercules 0 Bathurst 75 Western 1, Wollongong United 4 Dulwich Hill 3, Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 0 Camden Tigers 1, Stanmore Hawks 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3, Ryde City 1 Rockdale City Suns 1.

GRADE 14: Belmore Hercules 0 Bathurst 75 Western 0, Wollongong United 1 Dulwich Hill 0, Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1 Camden Tigers 2, Stanmore Hawks 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4, Ryde City 2 Rockdale City Suns 2.

GRADE 15: Belmore Hercules 0 Bathurst 75 Western 4, Wollongong United 0 Dulwich Hill 1, Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1 Camden Tigers 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3, Ryde City 6 Rockdale City Suns 1.

GRADE 16: Belmore Hercules 2 Bathurst 75 Western 0, Wollongong United 0 Dulwich Hill 2, Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 0 Camden Tigers 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Ryde City 0 Rockdale City Suns 3.

GRADE 18: Belmore Hercules 0 Bathurst 75 Western 2, Wollongong United 0 Dulwich Hill 17, Sydney Uni Eastern Lions 1 Camden Tigers 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Ryde City 3 Rockdale City Suns 0 Win by Forfeit.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Wollongong United	17	14	2	1	50	7	43	44
Belmore Hercules	17	10	3	4	32	18	14	33
Bathurst '75/Western	16	9	2	5	27	21	6	29
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	8	4	4	19	16	3	28
Camden Tigers	17	8	3	6	44	17	27	27
SU Eastern Lions	16	6	6	4	22	17	5	24
Dulwich Hill	16	6	3	7	31	29	2	21
Ryde City	16	6	2	8	18	38	-20	20
Rockdale City Suns	16	4	4	8	11	19	-8	16
Hurstville City Min	16	3	3	10	15	32	-17	12
Stanmore Hawks	17	0	0	17	11	66	-55	0

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Bathurst '75/Western	16	14	2	0	39	5	34	44
Belmore Hercules	17	12	2	3	29	8	21	38
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	11	3	2	28	9	19	36
Ryde City	16	7	4	5	25	21	4	25
Camden Tigers	17	7	3	7	28	27	1	24
Rockdale City Suns	16	5	6	5	20	16	4	21
Hurstville City Min	16	5	5	6	14	18	-4	20
Wollongong United	17	4	3	10	20	29	-9	15
SU Eastern Lions	16	4	3	9	14	24	-10	15
Dulwich Hill	16	4	2	10	13	22	-9	14
Stanmore Hawks	17	0	1	16	7	58	-51	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Ryde City	16	13	2	1	46	13	33	41
SU Eastern Lions	16	12	2	2	30	8	22	38
Dulwich Hill	16	8	6	2	20	12	8	30
Wollongong United	17	9	2	6	39	28	11	29
Hurstville City Min	16	8	3	5	25	17	8	27
Rockdale City Suns	16	6	4	6	21	25	-4	22
Belmore Hercules	17	6	2	9	18	37	-19	20
Bathurst '75/Western	16	5	4	7	27	19	8	19
Camden Tigers	17	5	3	9	22	25	-3	18
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	3	1	12	16	24	-8	10
Stanmore Hawks	17	0	1	16	7	63	-56	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Camden Tigers	17	10	7	0	29	10	19	37
Dulwich Hill	16	11	2	3	43	18	25	35
Hurstville City Min	16	10	3	3	31	16	15	33
Belmore Hercules	17	10	2	5	37	16	21	32
Wollongong United	17	8	6	3	22	13	9	30
Rockdale City Suns	15	6	3	6	21	22	-1	21
Bathurst '75/Western	16	5	5	6	22	22	0	20
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	5	1	10	14	24	-10	16
Ryde City	16	3	3	10	18	33	-15	12
SU Eastern Lions	16	1	3	12	15	45	-30	6
Stanmore Hawks	16	1	3	12	11	44	-33	6

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Ryde City	16	12	2	2	62	16	46	38
Dulwich Hill	16	11	2	3	63	21	42	35
Camden Tigers	17	11	2	4	55	19	36	35
Stanmore Hawks	17	10	2	5	52	27	25	32
Bathurst '75/Western	16	9	3	4	34	24	10	30
Hurstville City Mino	16	9	1	6	47	24	23	28
Mt Druitt Town Ran	16	7	3	6	28	26	2	24
SU Eastern Lions	16	4	2	10	29	42	-13	14
Rockdale City Suns	16	3	3	10	53	47	6	12
Belmore Hercules	17	3	2	12	28	51	-23	11
Wollongong United	17	0	0	17	6	160	-154	0

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Bathurst '75/Western	80	42	16	22	149	91	58	142
Ryde City	80	41	13	26	169	121	48	136
Dulwich Hill	80	40	15	25	170	102	68	135
Camden Tigers	85	41	18	26	178	98	80	141
Belmore Hercules	85	41	11	33	144	130	14	134
Hurstville City Min	80	35	15	30	132	107	25	120
Mt Druitt Town Ran	80	34	12	34	105	99	6	114
Wollongong United	85	35	13	37	137	237	100	118
SU Eastern Lions	80	27	16	37	110	136	-26	97
Rockdale City Suns	79	24	20	35	126	129	-3	92
Stanmore Hawks	84	11	7	66	88	258	-170	40

***S.S.I.* GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE - ROUND 18:**

GRADE 12: Marconi 2 Blacktown Districts 2, Wollongong Wolves 0 North West Sydney Koalas 4, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Central Coast FC 0, Macarthur Rams 4 UNSW 0, Nepean Association vs Northern Tigers Washed Out, Southern Branch 0 St George Association 1.

GRADE 14: Marconi 1 Blacktown Districts 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 North West Sydney Koalas 3, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Central Coast FC 1, Macarthur Rams 4 UNSW 0, Nepean Association vs Northern Tigers Washed Out, Southern Branch 0 St George Association 3.

GRADE 16: Marconi 1 Blacktown Districts 1, Wollongong Wolves 0 North West Sydney Koalas 5, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Central Coast FC 0, Macarthur Rams 7 UNSW 0, Nepean Association vs Northern Tigers Washed Out, Southern Branch 3 St George Association 0.

***S.S.I.* GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 12**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	17	15	1	1	41	6	35	46
Sutherland Assoc	16	14	0	2	48	8	40	42
Nepean Association	16	13	2	1	51	17	34	41
NW Sydney Koalas	16	11	2	3	48	16	32	35
St George Assoc	17	7	4	6	21	19	2	25
Macarthur Rams	17	6	5	6	25	22	3	23
Blacktown Assoc	16	5	4	7	24	31	-7	19
UNSW	16	5	2	9	21	32	-11	17
Central Coast United	16	4	2	10	18	24	-6	14
Marconi Stallions	17	2	8	7	22	37	-15	14
Northern Tigers	16	3	5	8	17	36	-19	14
Southern Branch	17	2	3	12	7	31	-24	9
Wollongong Wolves	17	0	2	15	13	77	-64	2

***S.S.I.* GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 14**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
St George Association	17	13	2	2	57	13	44	41
NW Sydney Koalas	16	12	3	1	39	8	31	39
Macarthur Rams	17	13	0	4	44	17	27	39
Manly Warringah	17	12	3	2	31	7	24	39
Nepean Association	16	10	2	4	38	16	22	32
Sutherland Assoc	16	8	3	5	25	8	17	27
Central Coast United	16	6	4	6	25	23	2	22
Southern Branch	17	6	1	10	21	35	-14	19
Wollongong Wolves	17	4	3	10	9	26	-17	15
Marconi Stallions	17	2	6	9	9	36	-27	12
Northern Tigers	16	2	3	11	6	33	-27	9
Blacktown Assoc	16	1	2	13	3	42	-39	5
UNSW	16	0	4	12	4	47	-43	4

S.S.I. GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Southern Branch	17	15	0	2	68	7	61	45
NW Sydney Koalas	16	13	2	1	69	18	51	41
Manly Warringah	17	12	2	3	61	19	42	38
Macarthur Rams	17	12	1	4	47	17	30	37
Nepean Association	16	11	1	4	58	22	36	34
Sutherland Assoc	16	9	2	5	33	20	13	29
Blacktown Asso	16	7	1	8	32	34	-2	22
Central Coast United	16	5	3	8	22	26	-4	18
Marconi Stallions	17	5	3	9	21	35	-14	18
Wollongong Wolves	17	4	1	12	20	59	-39	13
St George Assoc	17	4	0	13	24	51	-27	12
Northern Tigers	16	1	2	13	7	58	-51	5
UNSW	16	0	0	16	5	101	-96	0

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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK

Round and round and round we go ...

The Premier League coaching merry-go-round continues, but instead of spinning at a whirlwind pace it seems to be much, much slower than it has been in previous years.

Going through the 11 Premier League clubs from this past season, it seems that the majority have already made their appointments and are now at the stage of player recruitment.

Of those we know about, Penrith have resigned Tony Rasmussen, Rockdale have secured Ivan Petkovic, while Blacktown City have Brian Brown returning for his seventh consecutive season.

At Melita Stadium, Trevor Morgan has got the nod after a strong debut season, while Bonnyrigg have replaced Gordon Brown with Mike Urukalo. Strong rumours suggest that Les De Celis will be back at Lambert Park with Greg Woodhouse as his deputy while Bankstown City have made an offer to Andy Papoulias.

Of the four National leagues teams dropping down, only one seems to have be confirmed at this stage and that is Jean Paul De Marigny who will lead Marconi into battle, Sydney United, Sydney Olympic and Wollongong City are all expected to name their coaching staff over the next few weeks.

Olympic hopefuls

The rumour mill has been working overtime with a number of names being thrown around for the vacant Sydney Olympic job.

While Nick Theodorakopoulos has all but ruled himself out of calculations the most recent name thrown up as a possibility is current Fraser Park midfielder Ante Juric.

Other names FTS has heard being mentioned include John Sentas, Peter Papoythis and Andy Papoulias. Rumours out of Edensor Park have got a former Socceroo international being lined up for the role player/coach, despite Grant Lee being the incumbent.

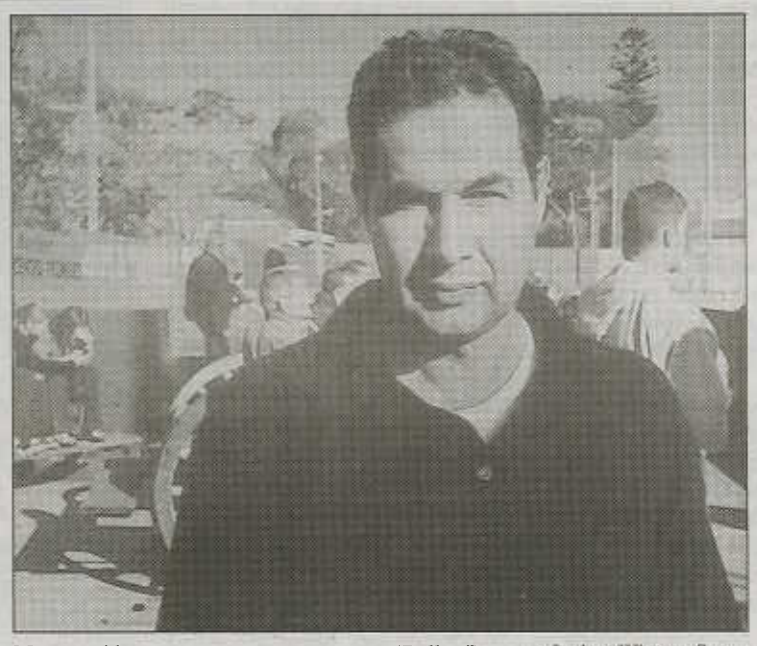
As documented in the Illawarra Mercury newspaper last week, John Turner is engaged in a battle royale to maintain his spot as Wolves coach with Adrian Alston being mooted as a possible replacement.

Morgan on Eagles

As noted above Parramatta Eagles have agreed to terms with Trevor Morgan for season 2004/5, dousing any speculation that Morgan may return to the Illawarra.

After a highly successful debut season, Morgan is looking to another year of consolidation as the club continues its rebuilding phase in the revamped League.

"I have agreed to terms with the club and should be signing my contract at some stage in the next few weeks," Morgan said.



"It looks like it is going to be another year of consolidation allowing the club to pay off some debt, but I feel quite confident we can have another good year and recruit a very competitive squad."

Morgan is also keen to promote three youngsters from the clubs successful Grade 20 side from last season, and given his exceptional track record with young teams he should be one to watch.

The General marshalls his forces

Hurstville City Minotaurs are holding their 20th anniversary dinner on Saturday July 24th at the Palais Reception Lounge at Catherine Street Leichhardt.

Minotaurs coach and manager Peter 'the General' Sarikakis says that a feature of the night will be the naming of the Minotaurs 'teams of the decade', one from the first ten years, followed by another from the second decade leading into the Minotaurs Best Eleven of all time. For tickets contact Sarikakis on 0412 407 830.

Limo blows a tyre

Fans of Winter Super League club Fraser Park must be scratching their heads in wonderment at their side's lack of consistency in the season thus far.

Despite finishing runners-up to Sydney Crescent Star last season, the Dragons have yet to run into anything like their form of last season and have coughed and spluttered their way through the first eighteen rounds to sit in sixth spot, still two points out of the top five.

Given the squad contains the likes of Ante Juric, Glenn Sprod, Tony Faria, Greg Collins, Clint Bolton, Elias Augerinos and Martin Bourke, what has happened to the club that considered the 'Rolls Royce of the Winter Super League?

"Injuries, injuries and more injuries," said Dragons coach Ian Gillan.

"We just haven't been able to put our best eleven on the park for more than a week at a time. As soon as we get players back, we have other going down with more injuries – it's like a merry-go-round with no end in sight."

Prior to their 3-0 win over Hajduk Wanderers at Kogarah Oval two weekends ago the club had lost three of its past four games including consecutive 2-0 defeats by the struggling Dulwich Hill and MSC Liverpool. Their only highlight being a 2-2 draw over Stanmore Hawks at Arlington Oval.

"Some of those games were exceptionally disappointing for us," continued Gillan, "it doesn't matter what team we play, they all lift because they are playing Fraser Park and they tend to adopt these defensive mind sets.

"As a result it stifles our way of playing and if we aren't mentally switched on we struggle. Add to that is the injury count and while I am not using that as an excuse it does have an impact on the team and the combination you send out each week."

THUMBS UP – It is not often a player scores three or even four goals in a game, but six – that's some kind of an effort. FTS must apologise to Schofields Scorpions new recruit Adam Kwasnik for not mentioning his exploits last weekend in his teams 8-0 defeat of Mount Druitt Town at Popondetta Park. Kwasnik scored six of the eight goals in what must go down as one of the best cameo efforts since Steve Karavatakis scored five in season 1999.

THUMBS DOWN – FTS continually hears rumours of all shapes and sizes but the one we hear about a former coach going bananas at some committee members at a recent presentation night takes the cake. We won't embarrass the club by naming them or the coach involved except to say FTS thought this person had far more brains than to shoot off at the mouth after a night on the turps.

ALL THUMBS – To the high profile Winter Super League coach has finally entered the new millenium and got himself a mobile phone. This unamed identity was probably the only soccer personality not to have bought himself into the technological age by purchasing a phone and had been relying on carrier pigeons and the ancient art of hieroglyphics to communicate with players and committee.

Coach poach: Clockwise from top, John Sentas; Michael Urukalo; John Paul de Marigny

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Hill crumbles under ZSC onslaught

DULWICH HILL - HURSTVILLE ZSC

Dulwich Hill kissed their final series ambitions goodbye on Sunday afternoon as Hurstville ZSC mounted their case for inclusion in the top five with a stunning 5-0 win.

In slushy conditions at Arlington Oval Hurstville were by far and away the better side racing to a 3-0 lead at the half hour mark and going on with the job with another two goals midway through the second stanza to bury a Hill side that failed to handle the conditions.

Without the services of the suspended duo Denis Aliliovic and Mirko Jurilj, Hurstville came to Arlington Oval expecting a dog fight but were pleasantly surprised as they took the game by the scruff of the neck inside the first twenty minutes.

Replacing their usual midfield passing game with route one football, Hurstville excelled in the greasy conditions putting the ball forward at every opportunity.

Diminutive striker Eddie Adam was the major beneficiary, hitting a first half hat trick as his pace and close ball control were no match for the Dulwich Hill defenders.

In the 6th minute Adam turned the experienced George Souris on a five cent piece after racing onto a through ball from midfielder Peter Vrlic.

Swinging onto his preferred right foot he beat goalkeeper Wojtek Zarzyicki from a tight angle at the near post.

At the 20 minute mark he had two, Anthony Jusic and Vrlic combining down the right to whip in a cross to the edge of the six yard box.

Goalkeeper Zarzyicki clashed with Michael Cunico and dropped the ball in a sea of arms and legs,with Adam there to tuck the loose ball away into the empty net.

In the 26th minute his hat trick was complete when a Robert Babaic through ball caught the Dulwich Hill defenders napping, Adam was able to nip in behind and beat Zarzyicki with the one on one.

Anthony Jusic and Michael Cunico both scored second half goals in the space of four minutes midway through the second half to complete the rout. Jusic found the net when he snuck in behind the Dulwich Hill defence after a good ball from Babaic while Cunico got his name on the scoresheet when he turned in an Ante Alilovic corner with a deft header.

"Everything went right for us today," said Hurstville ZSC coach John Gagro, "the pitch wasn't all that great being so greasy and uneven but we played to the conditions and did exceptionally well.

"Our gameplan was to send the ball long at every opportunity and it worked a treat, Dulwich Hill seemed to prefer to play through the midfield and we were able to get men behind the ball which helped our cause."

The win takes Hurstville to within striking distance of the top five. Just three points behind fifth placed Macarthur Rams they now have their own destiny in their hands.

"The result was very encouraging given our recent poor form and it is encouraging to know we are still in the mix for the top five," Gagro said.

"The team went through a bad patch in losing the last four games but we have put that aside and on today's performance we should be well in the hunt for the game against Northern Tigers next weekend."

MACARTHUR RAMS - HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS

Macarthur's run for a top five spot came unstuck in the mud and slush of Lynwood Park as they fell to a solitary Minotaurs' goal from pint-sized striker Dimitri Zakilas.

Having won their last two matches and unbeaten for five, the Rams started the match the overwhelming favourites but failed to get out of first gear for much of the match against a lesser ranked opponent.

Instead of adopting their tactical game plan of getting numbers behind the ball and attacking on the break, the usual discipline was thwarted by some hard running Minotaurs midfield who exploited the pace of twin strikers George Lagoudakis and Dimitri Zakilas.

Both players had chances for the Minotaurs to take the lead but they were held in check until the 53rd minute when Zakilas stormed onto a through ball from Chris Dimitriou to beat advancing goalkeeper Phil Zabaks with a deft touch.

"It was a great goal but realistically we should have had four or five," Minotaurs coach Peter Sarikakis said.

"George Lagoudakis and Dimitri Zakilas missed that many between them but to have got a result down here against a well organised and well drilled team is an excellent result for us."

Sarikakis had to do it the hard way with a revamped squad after Carlo Musumeci and Pieros Vasilearas were omitted with injury and with goalkeeper Stacy Alogdellis under a cloud with the flu.

But with Dimitriou and skipper Sam Panagakis leading the way, the Minotaurs staved off a late flurry from Macarthur to take all three points.

"It is important for people to realise how important each win is for the morale of this team," Sarikakis said.

"None of the boys in this team get paid very much at all, they do it for the love of the game and the opportunity to play at this level.

"We are not like other clubs who buy players; we assemble what we can get and play to our limitations. Wins like this one today are important for the boys and I was very proud of the way they played."

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GOALSCORERS

Sunday 11th July 2004

12 Eddie Adam (HZSC)
11 Sargun Dawd (SH)
10 Tanju Balabanel (FP), Tim Gledhill (HWU), Brent Fisher (MWD)
9 Demetri Zakilas (HCM)
8 Male Vukosa (MR), Anthony Sarmonikas (SS), Leigh Gunn (FB)
7 Scott Baillie (SH)
6 Nenos Bobo (FB), Rob Smithies (SU), Michael Williams (MWD), Iain MacDonald (SS), Adam Foti (NT)
5 Tallan Martin (DH), Paul Wither (MR), Johnny Ghisso (FB), Matthew Ferreira (DH), Dean Heffernan (SS), Tolgay Ozbey (FB), Ante Jusic (HZSC)
4 Richard Harrison (MR), Eric Williams (MSC), Navid Varess (HWU), Marino Musemici (HCM), Spyro Kladis (FP), Claudio Oricchio (MSC), Peter Satos (SU), Maurice Soler (SH), Erik Paatalu (NT), Tom Mikulski (NT), Nell Philippou (SH), Steve Berry (MWD)

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 19:

FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Hajduk Wanderers Utd Washed Out, Macarthur Rams 0 Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (D Zakilas 53m), Dulwich Hill 0 Hurstville ZSC 5 (E Adam 6/20/26m A Jusic 61m N Cunico 65m), Northern Tigers 1 (A Oppedisano 28m pen) Ryde City 1 (A Wilkinson 86m pen), Fraser Park vs Sydney University Washed Out, Fairfield Bulls 3 (T Bazdaric 54m L Gunn 58m S Isa 81m) MSC Liverpool 1 (D Gardiner 51m).

GRADE 20: Sutherland Sharks Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Hajduk Wanderers Utd Washed Out, Macarthur Rams 3 Hurstville City Minotaurs 1, Dulwich Hill 4 Hurstville ZSC 1, Northern Tigers 3 Ryde City 0, Fraser Park vs Sydney University Washed Out, Fairfield Bulls 2 MSC Liverpool 0.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Stanmore Hawks	18	11	4	3	41	21	20	37
Manly Warringah	18	12	1	5	31	16	15	37
Fairfield Bulls	19	11	2	6	35	21	14	35
Hajduk Wanderers	18	10	1	7	26	26	0	31
Macarthur Rams	19	8	6	5	33	28	5	30
Fraser Pk Dragons	18	8	4	6	30	22	8	28
Hurstville ZSC	19	8	3	8	29	29	0	27
Sydney University	18	6	6	6	18	19	-1	24
Northern Tigers	19	6	6	7	31	32	-1	24
Sutherland Sharks	18	7	3	8	28	31	-3	24
Hurstville City Min	19	5	5	9	23	31	-8	20
Dulwich Hill	19	6	2	11	25	40	-15	20
M.S.C. Liverpool	19	4	3	12	21	34	-13	15
Ryde City	19	3	4	12	15	36	-21	13

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly Warringah	18	16	2	0	60	15	45	50
Dulwich Hill	19	12	3	4	47	23	24	39
Hajduk Wanderers	18	12	2	4	38	23	15	38
Fairfield Bulls	19	11	3	5	41	30	11	36
Sutherland Sharks	18	11	1	6	31	17	14	34
Northern Tigers	19	9	6	4	34	22	12	33
Fraser Pk Dragons	18	8	5	5	36	24	12	29
Macarthur Rams	19	7	3	9	32	33	-1	24
M.S.C. Liverpool	19	6	4	9	29	33	-4	22
Sydney University	18	5	2	11	22	32	-10	17
Stanmore Hawks	18	5	1	12	20	41	-21	16
Hurstville City Mino	19	4	1	14	15	52	-37	13
Hurstville ZSC	19	3	2	14	22	49	-27	11
Ryde City	19	2	3	14	15	48	-33	9

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 20:

FIRST GRADE: Bathurst 75 0 Western Rage 3 (G Wakim 55m K Holbrook 62m penalty/78m), Camden Tigers 1 (D Mackechnie 58m) Schofields Scorpions 3 (D Langan 42m Own goal 57m A Kwasnik 60m), Hills United 2 (S Coombes 13m C Lewis 57m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3 (M Noro 7m A Tye 22m C Issac 41m), Belmore Hercules 0 Wollongong United 2 (R Todorovski 1/57m), Fairfield City Lions 2 (Aydin Cetinay 76m Y Ekinci 85m) Nepean Association 4 (R Galayini 3/47m J Sciberras 21m S Mort 69m), Liverpool Bossy 2 (N Bosevski 14/34m) The Wanderers 2 (P Oudicho 35m O Valderrama 57m), White City 1 (own goal 34m) Mt Pritchard 3 (J Connolly 50/60m L Flynn 85m).

GRADE 20: Bathurst 75 0 Western Rage 5, Camden Tigers 2 Schofields Scorpions 4, Hills United 5 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Belmore Hercules 2 Wollongong United 2, Fairfield City Lions 1 Nepean Association 4, Liverpool Bossy 1 The Wanderers 3, White City 2 Mt Pritchard 2.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Nepean Association	20	13	4	3	48	23	25	43
Western Rage	20	13	3	4	55	29	26	42
Liverpool Bossy	20	11	6	3	40	26	14	39
Wollongong United	20	12	2	6	40	21	19	38
Fairfield City Lions	20	10	5	5	46	37	9	35
Hills Utd Brumbies	20	9	4	7	40	31	9	31
Mt Pritchard	20	10	1	9	34	29	5	31
White City	19	8	2	9	32	35	-3	26
The Wanderers	20	7	4	9	32	39	-7	25
Belmore Hercules	20	6	4	10	20	32	-12	22
S'fields Scorpions	19	5	5	9	37	39	-2	20
Bathurst '75	20	4	5	11	23	41	-18	17
Camden Tigers	20	2	5	13	14	40	-26	11
Mt Druitt Town Ran	20	2	4	14	18	57	-39	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Nepean Association	20	16	1	3	56	19	37	49
Mt Pritchard	20	14	3	3	67	24	43	45
Western Rage	20	12	4	4	67	27	40	40
S'fields Scorpions	19	12	3	4	45	27	18	39
Hills Utd Brumbies	20	11	3	6	47	23	24	36
Mt Druitt Town Ran	20	11	2	7	49	27	22	35
White City	19	9	4	6	48	48	0	31
Camden Tigers	20	8	4	8	35	35	0	28
The Wanderers	20	8	3	9	46	44	2	27
Belmore Hercules	20	5	4	11	27	42	-15	19
Bathurst '75	20	5	1	14	18	72	-54	16
Fairfield City Lions	20	3	6	11	30	48	-18	15
Liverpool Bossy	20	2	3	15	24	60	-36	9
Wollongong United	20	1	3	16	24	87	-63	6

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: ROUND 16:

FIRST GRADE: UNSW 5 (S Parker 5m C Claridge 12m N Kodomichalos 31m C Boutsikakis 75/88m) Blacktown Districts 1 (J Palumbo 60m), Prospect United 1 (A Maxwell 90m) Springwood SC 3 (M Halse 56m M Haberman 75m R Hunter 89m), Southern Star Sharks 2 (T Boustani 20 pen/44m Auburn Star 0, Greenisland SC vs Hakoah abandoned, Inter Lions 3 (L Wright 23m J Kyriazopoulous 30m A Maiorca 83m) Hawkesbury City 1 (D Bertenshaw 38m).

GRADE 21: UNSW 1 Blacktown Districts 1, Prospect United 0 Springwood SC 3, Southern Star Sharks 6 Auburn Star 0, Greenisland SC 1 Hakoah 1, Inter Lions 1 Hawkesbury City 2.

GRADE 19: UNSW 0 Blacktown Districts 0, Prospect United 1 Springwood SC 1, Southern Star Sharks 5 Auburn Star 1, Greenisland SC vs Hakoah Deferred, Inter Lions 3 Hawkesbury City 3.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Inter Lions	15	10	2	3	36	15	21	32
Springwood	14	7	4	3	19	12	7	25
Hakoah	13	7	2	4	24	20	4	23
Auburn Stars	14	6	4	4	20	14	6	22
Blacktown Districts	14	7	1	6	26	29	-3	22
Hawkesbury City	15	4	6	3	21	19	2	20
Greystanes	14	5	4	5	17	17	0	19
Southern Star	15	5	4	6	20	22	-2	19
UNSW	15	4	2	9	18	24	-6	14
Prospect United	15	3	4	8	14	30	-16	13
Greenisland SC	14	1	5	8	14	27	-13	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Inter Lions	15	10	2	3	50	15	35	32
Springwood	14	9	3	2	44	12	32	30
Hawkesbury City	15	8	5	2	47	12	35	29
Blacktown Districts	14	8	4	2	29	17	12	28
UNSW	15	6	6	3	53	18	35	24
Hakoah	14	5	6	3	25	18	7	21
Greystanes	14	4	6	4	20	19	1	18
Southern Star	15	4	4	7	28	39	-11	16
Greenisland SC	15	3	2	10	21	39	-18	11
Prospect United	15	2	4	9	17	46	-29	10
Auburn Stars	14	0	0	14	11	110	-99	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO GRADE 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
UNSW	15	10	2	3	39	12	27	32
Greenisland SC	14	10	1	3	38	22	16	31
Inter Lions	15	8	3	4	48	20	28	27
Hawkesbury City	15	8	2	5	39	29	10	26
Hakoah	13	8	1	4	37	20	17	25
Blacktown Districts	14	6	3	5	21	21	0	21
Prospect United	15	4	4	7	30	36	-6	16
Springwood	14	4	4	6	15	24	-9	16
Southern Star	15	3	6	6	23	28	-5	15
Greystanes	14	3	3	8	24	32	-8	12
Auburn Stars	14	0	1	13	9	79	-70	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE: ROUND 16:

FIRST GRADE: Gladesville United 4 Balmain SC 1, Colo Colo 1 Transandinos 3, Earlwood Wanderers 4 Gazy Lansvale 1, Sporting SCC vs Lithgow Workmen Postponed, Sydney Cedars SC 4 Roosters FC 0.

RESERVE GRADE: Gladesville United Balmain SC Postponed, Kellyville Kolts 3 East Coast Magic 1, Colo Colo 1 Trasandinos 2, Earlwood Wanderers 2 Gazy Lansvale 2, Sporting SCC vs Lithgow Workmen Postponed, Sydney Cedars SC 5 Roosters FC 4.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
East Coast Magic	15	11	2	2	49	21	28	35
Trasandinos	15	11	2	2	42	18	24	35
Balmain SC	16	11	1	4	51	27	24	34
Kellyville Kolts	15	10	1	4	46	25	21	31
Sydney Cedars SC	15	9	0	6	53	27	26	27
Colo Colo	16	8	1	7	36	35	1	25
Gazy Lansvale	15	6	2	7	25	28	-3	20
Gladesville United	16	5	4	7	34	33	1	19
E'wood Wanderers	15	4	1	10	17	39	-22	13
Lithgow Workmen	15	3	2	10	18	50	-32	11
Roosters FC	16	2	3	11	27	46	-19	9
Sporting SCC	15	1	3	11	14	63	-49	6

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE RESERVE GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Balmain SC	15	13	2	0	75	17	58	41
Trasandinos	16	9	4	3	42	28	14	31
Sydney Cedars SC	16	9	3	4	38	21	17	30
Kellyville Kolts	16	9	3	4	38	23	15	30
Colo Colo	16	7	4	5	33	28	5	25
East Coast Magic	15	6	4	5	28	19	9	22
Gladesville United	15	5	6	4	40	23	17	21
E'wood Wanderers	16	5	4	7	31	26	5	19
Roosters FC	16	4	3	9	28	38	-10	15
Lithgow Workmen	15	3	2	10	16	48	-32	11
Sporting SCC	15	2	2	11	12	65	-5	38
Gazy Lansvale	15	1	3	11	19	64	-45	6

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2004 QANTAS NATIONAL TALENT IDENTIFICATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

South Australia and Queensland have claimed the honours on the final day of competition at the 2004 Qantas National Talent Identification Championships for women.

The South Australians winning the Under 17s national title with the Queenslanders claiming top spot in the Under 15s age group.

South Australia won their final with a solid 2-0 win over Victoria courtesy of first half goals to Hannah Vogt and Katrina Bexis.

The Croweaters were deserved winners having won all of their six games throughout the course of the eight-day tournament conceding just one goal in the process.

The ACT finished third thanks to a first half goal from Georgie Chapman and a late penalty to Nicole Somi giving them a 2-0 win over Northern NSW.

Queensland won the Under 15 title with 1-0 win over rivals NSW in a match that could have gone either way. Tennielle Boaler scored the game's only goal in the 38th minute with the result ensuring the Queenslanders finished with the incredible record of having gone through the tournament without conceding a goal or dropping a point. In the third place play-off Northern NSW won 2-1 over Victoria thanks to goals from Leia Smith and Lauren Hough with Annabelle Gibney replying for the Victorians.

The best player award was taken out by Queensland defender Kim Carroll in the 17s age division while Elle Crowe representing Northern Territory won the best player award in the Under 15s. ACT took out the 17s Fair Play Award with NSW Metropolitan winning the same award in the 15s.

Next years tournament will be contested in the 16s and 18s age-brackets in keeping with the age requirements of the 2006 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship.

All matches at Valentine Sports Park, Meurants Lane, Glenwood.

A daily results service will be distributed each evening following the final match, while the full tournament draw and regular results updates can be found at www.australiansoccer.com.au

Additional information, including the full draw, can be also be found at:

www.soccernsw.com.au

Semi Finals
Friday 9 July

Under 17s:

South Australia 1 (K Bexis 76') Northern NSW 0, Victoria 2 (C Pfeiffer 19', A Totsidis 44' pen) ACT 2 (K Chaivannacoopt 35', T Metherall 40') - Victoria won 4-3 on penalties.

5th place play-off

Queensland 4 (A Reed 21', 35', K Carroll 68, K Walker 72') Western Australia 1 (C Conway 6')

7th place play-off

NSW Metropolitan 0 NSW Country 0

9th place play-off

Tasmania 2 (M Archer 15', K Brazendale 23') Northern Territory 0

Under 15s:

NSW Metropolitan 2 (R Dick 28', J Saliba 35') Northern NSW 0, Queensland 3 (T Boaler 22', E Neumann 44', S McIntosh 70') Victoria 0

5th place play-off

Western Australia 1 (K Coghlan 1') South Australia 0

7th place play-off

ACT 2 (S Murtagh 6', G Gill 65') Northern Territory 0

9th place play-off

NSW Country 3 (R Garland 4', L Kable 16', J Thomas 50') Tasmania 0

Finals
Saturday 10 July

Under 17 - 12pm

South Australia 2 (H Vogt 29', K Bexis 37') Victoria 0

Under 17 third place play-off - 9am

ACT 2 (G Chapman 40', N Somi 64' pen) Northern NSW 0

Under 15 Final - 11am

Queensland 1 (T Boaler 38') NSW Metropolitan 0

Under 15 third place play-off - 9am

Northern NSW 2 (L Smith 19', L Hough 50') Victoria 1 (A Gibney 33')

Under 17 Final Standings

1st South Australia
2nd Victoria
3rd ACT
4th Northern NSW
5th Queensland
6th Western Australia
7th NSW Country
7th NSW Metropolitan
9th Tasmania
10th Northern Territory

Final Standings

1st Queensland
2nd NSW Metropolitan
3rd Northern NSW
4th Victoria
5th Western Australia
6th South Australia
7th ACT
8th Northern Territory
9th NSW Country
10th Tasmania

WOMEN STATE LEAGUE

By Aimee Brown

Southern Branch had an important 5-0 win over Blacktown Districts at Francis Park this weekend, which keeps them in the running for the Arrive alive NSW Womens State League finals.

The game was played in good spirits on both sides and the softer ground caused by the early rain was welcomed by all. Southern Branch came out strong, and striker Katie French scored two quick goals to set the tone of the game.

Her first was scored from 25 metres outside the right side of the goal and her second was fired into the top left of the goal after being brought down by Fiona Boyd.

Blacktown was strong through the midfield and managed to generate some chances, but the tight defence of Southern Branch prevented them from converting any to goals.

Under 16 Country player Tara Pyers scored the third goal for Southern Branch in the 28th minute with a long ball from 30 metres out, bringing the tally to 3-0 at half time.

After the break, Southern Branch maintained control of ball possession and Ashley Hudson scored their fourth goal, chipping the keeper in the 65th minute. They kept the pressure on until the final whistle, but not before slotting one more goal in courtesy of captain Tina Rasdall in the 80th minute.

The Roselands Raptors had the Gladesville Ravens to play at Bennett Park and after a close game took home a 3-2 win.

Roselands had a number of players backing up from the Grade 21's, but still managed to come out strong and keep the pressure on for a large part of the game. Roselands followed through on the chances they created. Angela Treglia scored their first goal in the 8th minute, which was followed up with a goal by Sanaa Choucair in the 18th minute.

Gladesville also created some chances in the first half but couldn't find the back of the net until the 25th minute, when Natalie Bohm scored after chipping the keeper. Roselands responded to this with a goal by Elise Douglas in the 32nd minute, bringing their total to three. Gladesville scored their second six minutes later again courtesy of Bohm, working in conjunction with fellow striker Margaret Corderoy.

At half time the score was 3-2, and although both teams fought hard and created some opportunities in the second half, no more goals were scored and Roselands walked away with three-points..

Sydney Uni had a significant 6-0 win over Hawkesbury at Sydney University Oval, despite the rain turning the pitch into a temporary mud puddle.

Both teams struggled with the conditions but Uni made use of the drier flanks and followed through on their opportunities. Carly Debenam scored their first goal in the 12th minute from the edge of the 18 yard box which was followed up with the first of a hat-trick of goals for Uni's Paula Kelly in the 15th minute.

Kelly scored again in the 21st minute after slotting in a rebound off Hawkesbury's keeper. Lyndall Hudson scored their fourth goal two minutes later, and Catriona Watt put away the fifth in the 31st minute with a clean strike from the edge of the penalty box. Uni's final goal was scored by Kelly in the 33rd minute.

Despite this onslaught of goals by Uni, Hawkesbury worked hard, preventing them from converting many opportunities. The defence worked relentlessly and a strong game was played by the keeper. At half time the score was 6-0, but Hawkesbury managed to hold Uni off for the second half, making this the full-time result.

Uni will lose key player Kerry Regis this week, who returns to the US after a six month university exchange.

Competition leaders Central Coast United defeated Granville Rage 5-0 at Mingara Recreation Centre. Granville had a number of players backing up from the grade 21 team, and felt the challenge. Central Coast dominated the game from the whistle, with the first goal scored in the first minute of play by Angela Burns. This was followed up by Kayla Herbert who scored in the 8th minute with a well-worked team build up.

The Granville keeper worked hard throughout the game and pulled of many saves, but Central Coast hounded the goal and managed to put another goal away shortly after the second.

Nicole Mackie tapped the ball over the line after picking up a rebound from the keeper in the 11th minute.

In the second half Central Coast kept the pressure on and scored two goals in quick succession. Mackie scored her second of the match in the 47th minute and Gillian McMinimee scored in the 50th.

This brought the tally to 5-0, and although a few chances were created by both teams, this was the final score.

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Central Coast Utd	12	11	0	1	34	14	20	33
Sydney University	13	10	1	2	54	9	45	31
St George Assoc	13	9	2	2	40	16	24	29
Southern Branch	13	8	2	3	46	15	31	26
Gladesville Ravens	14	7	0	7	29	28	1	21
Blacktown Districts	13	3	1	9	15	33	-18	10
Granville Rage	13	3	0	10	16	39	-23	9
Roselands Raptors	13	2	1	10	9	56	-47	7
Hawkesbury City	14	1	3	10	8	41	-33	6

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMENS STATE LEAGUE - ROUND 15:

FIRST GRADE: Blacktown Districts 0 Southern Branch 5 (K French 15/20m S Smith 28m A Hudson 60m T Rasdall 75m), Roselands Raptors 3 (A Treglia 8m S Choucair 18m E Douglas 32m) Gladesville Ravens 2 (N Bohm 25/38m), Sydney University 6 (C Debenham 12m P Kelly 15/21/44m L Hudson 23m C Watt 31m) Hawkesbury City 0, Central Coast FC 5 (A Burns 1m K Herbert 8m N Mackie 11/47m G McMinimee 50m) Granville Rage 0.

GRADE 21: Blacktown Districts Blacktown Districts vs Southern Branch Postponed, Roselands Raptors 4 Gladesville Ravens 1, Sydney University 3 Hawkesbury City 0, Central Coast FC 1 Granville Rage 1.

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
St George Assoc	13	9	2	2	35	10	25	29
Sydney University	13	9	2	2	31	8	23	29
Blacktown Districts	12	9	1	2	36	12	24	28
Roselands Raptors	13	8	0	5	49	16	33	24
Central Coast Utd	12	6	3	3	22	19	3	21
Gladesville Ravens	14	4	0	10	26	44	-18	12
Granville Rage	13	2	4	7	23	47	-24	10
Southern Branch	12	2	1	9	19	42	-23	7
Hawkesbury City	14	2	1	11	7	50	-43	7

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WOMEN SUPER LEAGUE

End looms for Finals hopefuls

By Aimee Brown

As the 2004 Arrive alive NSW Womens Super League season draws to a close, the outcomes of the games become crucially important, especially for the teams that are vying for a place in the finals.

The Wollongong Wolves and Sutherland Association clashed at the Harrie Dening Centre this weekend. Both teams are fighting for a spot in the finals, so the pressure was on.

The rainy conditions had softened up the pitch, making the ground unstable and the ball slippery. It was a close game, but Sutherland walked away with the three points after securing a 1-0 lead early in the match.

From the start the ball moved quickly up and down the field and in the 13th minute Wollongong's Tina Siskoska had a shot on goal that was saved by Carlee Dreves, the Sutherland keeper.

Sutherland responded to this by bringing the ball into their scoring end, and after a defensive error by Wollongong's defence, Julie Murray pulled off a sliding kick that sent the ball into the top right of the net in the 14th minute.

From there on, play oscillated from end to end with both keepers having plenty of work. Sutherland had the majority of ball possession in the first half, but Wollongong blocked all their attempts to extend their lead.

In the second half, Wollongong came back with renewed strength and took control of the play. They pounded the Sutherland goal, but the slippery conditions meant that the ball often went wide or high of the goal.

Vanessa Mann set up numerous opportunities but could not find the back of the net. In the third minute of the second half Mann pulled the ball around to the left side and came up one-on-one with the keeper, but shot over the bar.

Although Wollongong had most of the possession in the second half, Sutherland also created some chances of their own.

In the 50th minute, Jodi Bruce had a shot from the right, but it went just wide.

Sutherland coach Chris Bradley was happy with the result, but agreed that it was a game that could have gone either way.

"It was a do or die situation for both of us because we both knew we had to win if we wanted a spot in the finals," he said.

Wollongong coach, Moro Tucker was disappointed with the final result but was happy with his team's efforts.

"I was really happy with how they played in the second half," he said. "It was a good performance especially after six players have just come back from injuries."

The Bathurst City Panthers drew 1-all with the Macarthur Rams at Bensley Road this weekend.

It was a close game and both teams played well despite the wet conditions and muddy pitch. Bathurst's Melissa Wilder scored the first goal of the match in the 7th minute of play, tucking the ball past the keeper after receiving a through ball from the defence.

The Rams had a number of opportunities, and managed to put away their goal in the 23rd minute. A cross from the right side of the field found Michelle Carney, who neatly finished the one on one opportunity with the Bathurst keeper.

Both teams continued to fight hard into the second half, but strong defence work prevented any team from scoring more goals.

The North West Sydney Koalas hosted Nepean Association at Morrison Bay and took home a decisive 11-1 victory.

The Koalas took control from the first whistle and scored one quick goal in the 5th minute courtesy of Jenny Barbera. Another two goals were scored in the first half by Sarah Burgess and again by Barbera, bringing the tally to 3-0 at half time.

After the break Rachel Jones scored the fourth goal for the Koalas, but Nepean found some strength and scored one of their own.

Mel Fuller's shot from outside the 18 yard box, finding the back of the net in the 49th minute.

Nepean fired up and began to challenge the Koalas, but two quick own goals in the 50th and 51st minute widened the margin and returned the game to the Koalas.

This was followed up with three quick goals by Barbera, Joanne Munn and Wendy Graham in the 62nd, 65th and 67th minutes respectively.

Barbera scored her fourth goal of the game in the 75th minute, and Sarah Burgess finished off the game with her second and the Koalas' 11th in the 77th minute of play.

The Marconi Stallions had a significant 5-2 win over the Manly Warringah Dolphins at Marconi Stadium.

The Stallions came out strong and put their first goal away in the first minute of play courtesy of Amanda Poulton.

Alicia Cavanagh scored their second goal after a penalty in the 9th minute. After these two quick goals the Dolphins began to apply some pressure but were no match for the Stallions, who put another two goals in the back of the net by half time.

Rebecca O'Neill scored in the 24th minute and Lisa Gilbert scored just before half time, tapping the ball in after a free kick.

After half time Manly came back with some renewed vigour and managed to hold off the Marconi strikers, conceding only one more goal in the second half from Cavanagh in the last ten minutes of play.

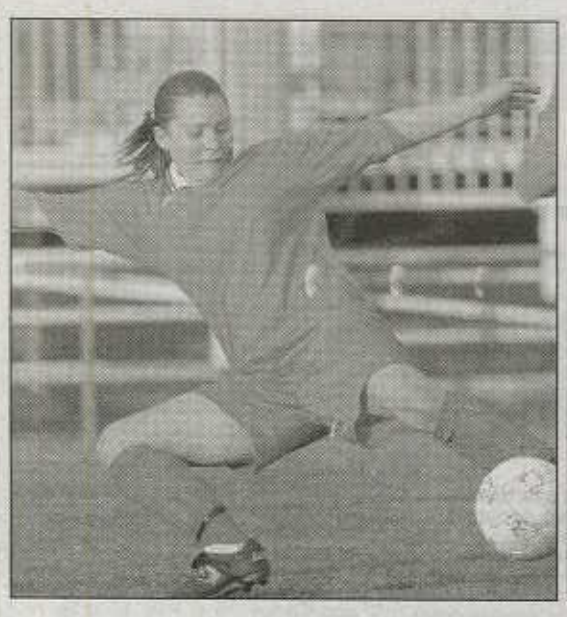
Manly put in their first goal of the match in the 65th minute, which was slotted in past the keeper by Kate Henman after a through ball from Cath Murray.

Chelsea Docherty scored the Dolphins second in the 85th minute, after a defensive error by Marconi, which left the goal open and allowed her to volley the ball into the top right of the net.

The teams battled it out until the last minutes of the game, but Marconi had the early points so took home the win.

The NSW Academy fixture against UNSW was postponed due to Academy's Julia Bazi, Leah Blayney, Danielle Brogan, Caitlin Cooper, Yasmin Favretti, Monique Jackson at the National Under 19 Training camp and Kylie Ledbrook and Sally Shipard away with the Matildas preparing for the Olympics.

Fly-by: Marconi's Rohre passes the Manly defence



Seeing red: A lone Marconi player in (right) is swamped by the Manly defence; a Manly player at full stretch (left)

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	15	14	0	1	56	13	43	42
NW Sydney Koalas	15	12	1	2	50	18	32	37
NSW Academy	13	11	1	1	50	9	41	34
Macarthur Rams	15	8	3	4	44	26	18	27
Wollongong Wolves	15	4	3	8	14	22	-8	15
Sutherland Assoc	14	4	3	7	13	29	-16	15
Bathurst City Pan	14	4	2	8	15	23	-8	14
UNSW	14	3	3	8	16	35	-19	12
Manly Warringah	14	3	0	11	14	46	-32	9
Nepean Association	15	0	2	13	8	59	-51	2

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE - ROUND 15:

FIRST GRADE: Macarthur Rams 1 (M Carney 23m) Bathurst City Panthers 1 (M Wilder 7m), North West Sydney Koalas 11 (J Barbera 5/43/62/75m S Burgess 18/77m R Jones 48m Own Goal 50m Own Goal 51m J Munn 65m W Graham 67m) Nepean Association 1 (M Fuller 49m), Sutherland Association 1 (J Murray 14m) Wollongong Wolves 0, Marconi 5 (A Poulton 1m A Cavanagh 9/80m R ONeill 24m L Gilbert 40m) Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 (K Hensman 65m C Docherty 85m).

GRADE 21: Macarthur Rams 3 Bathurst City Panthers 0, North West Sydney Koalas 3 Nepean Association 0 (Win by Forfeit), Sutherland Association 5 Wollongong Wolves 0, Marconi 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0.

ARRIVE ALIVE NSW WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	15	12	1	2	43	12	31	37
NSW Academy	13	12	0	1	54	7	47	36
NW Sydney Koalas	15	10	1	4	29	19	10	31
Sutherland Assoc	14	10	0	4	39	13	26	30
Manly Warringah	14	6	0	8	28	18	10	18
Wollongong Wolves	15	5	3	7	13	26	-13	18
Nepean Association	15	5	0	10	18	53	-35	15
Macarthur Rams	15	3	1	11	14	30	-16	10
UNSW	14	3	0	11	8	39	-31	9
Bathurst City Pan	14	2	2	10	6	35	-29	8

SOCCER NSW

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2004 Friendship Games for Boys

The Under 14 Friendship Games for Boys kicked off on Monday at Valentine Sports Park with 10 teams from the Australian Capital Territory, NSW Country, NSW Metropolitan, Northern NSW, Queensland, Queensland Country, Victoria, Victoria Country, Western Australia - North and Western Australia - South participating.

The Friendships games are unique in that they provide an opportunity for teams from the country to test themsleves without the pressure of competition.

Round: 1_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
12-07-04	Western Australia North	Queensland	Valentine Sports Park 1	9:30
12-07-04	Victoria Country	Northern NSW	Valentine Sports Park 1	11:00
12-07-04	NSW Metropolitan	Australian Capital Territory	Valentine Sports Park 1	12:30
12-07-04	Queensland Country	Western Australia South	Valentine Sports Park 1	14:00
12-07-04	Victoria	NSW Country	Valentine Sports Park 1	16:00

Round: 2_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
13-07-04	Victoria Country	NSW Metropolitan	Valentine Sports Park 2	9:30
13-07-04	Queensland	Western Australia South	Valentine Sports Park 2	11:00
13-07-04	Northern NSW	Western Australia North	Valentine Sports Park 2	12:30
13-07-04	Victoria	Australian Capital Territory	Valentine Sports Park 2	14:00
13-07-04	NSW Country	Queensland Country	Valentine Sports Park 2	16:00

Round: 3_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
14-07-04	Northern NSW	NSW Country	Valentine Sports Park 1	9:30
14-07-04	NSW Metropolitan	Queensland	Valentine Sports Park 1	11:00
14-07-04	Western Australia North	Victoria Country	Valentine Sports Park 1	12:30
14-07-04	ACT	Western Australia South	Valentine Sports Park 1	14:00
14-07-04	Queensland Country	Victoria	Valentine Sports Park 1	16:00

Round: 4_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
15-07-04	NSW Metropolitan	Northern NSW	Valentine Sports Park 2	9:30
15-07-04	Victoria Country	Queensland	Valentine Sports Park 2	11:00
15-07-04	Western Australia North	Queensland Country	Valentine Sports Park 2	12:30
15-07-04	ACT	NSW Country	Valentine Sports Park 2	14:00
15-07-04	Victoria	Western Australia South	Valentine Sports Park 2	16:00

Round: 5_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
16-07-04	Northern NSW	Queensland	Valentine Sports Park 1	9:30
16-07-04	Western Australia North	NSW Metropolitan	Valentine Sports Park 1	11:00
16-07-04	Victoria Country	Victoria	Valentine Sports Park 1	12:30
16-07-04	NSW Country	Western Australia South	Valentine Sports Park 1	14:00
16-07-04	Queensland Country	Australian Capital Territory	Valentine Sports Park 1	16:00

Round: 6_FG

Date	Home Team	Away Team	Venue	Time
17-07-04	Western Australia North	Victoria	Valentine Sports Park 1	9:30
17-07-04	Western Australia South	Victoria Country	Valentine Sports Park 2	11:00
17-07-04	NSW Country	Queensland	Valentine Sports Park 1	12:30
17-07-04	NSW Metropolitan	Queensland Country	Valentine Sports Park 2	14:00
17-07-04	ACT	Northern NSW	Valentine Sports Park 1	16:00

SOCCER NSW

On-Site
After Hours Representative
Valentine Sports Park
Meurants Lane, Glenwood

This busy sport complex requires a well organised person or couple to provide independent contractor services as the On-Site After Hours Representative The successful applicant will be responsible for the after hours operational welfare of the venue and duties will include the close down of the complex as hirers of the sports fields, gymnasium and lecture rooms finish their activities.

Responding to Motel residents' enquiries will also form part of this interesting position. Duties will commence in the early evening and the After Hours Representative is expected to remain accessible until the following morning. Good communication skills and a commitment to customer service is essential.

This is a Child Related Position and will be subject to a Working With Children Check. Prohibited Persons need not apply.

Remuneration is by way of rent free accommodation and the payment of a weekly fee. Forward your application with references marked 'Private & Confidential' to:

Linda Christie, Human Resources
Ph – 8814 4400 Fax - 9629 3770
linda@soccernsw.com.au
PO BOX 6146, Baulkham Hills BC 2153

SOCCER NSW

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
NSW STATE REFEREES COACH

(Part Time Position)

Written applications are now being called for the 'part time position' of NSW State Referees Coach. The appointment will be for a maximum period of eighteen (18) months.
Initially the successful applicant will be required to compile a register of Branch Coaches from all the NSW Referees' Branches and maintain the currency of the register during the term of the position.
Ideally, the successful applicant will be a skilled communicator, educator and administrator with top level experience as a Referee and practical experience essential.
The successful applicant will be required to:-

Hold a Class 1 Referees Certificate,
Be responsible for the successful operation of the Branch Referee Coach structure,

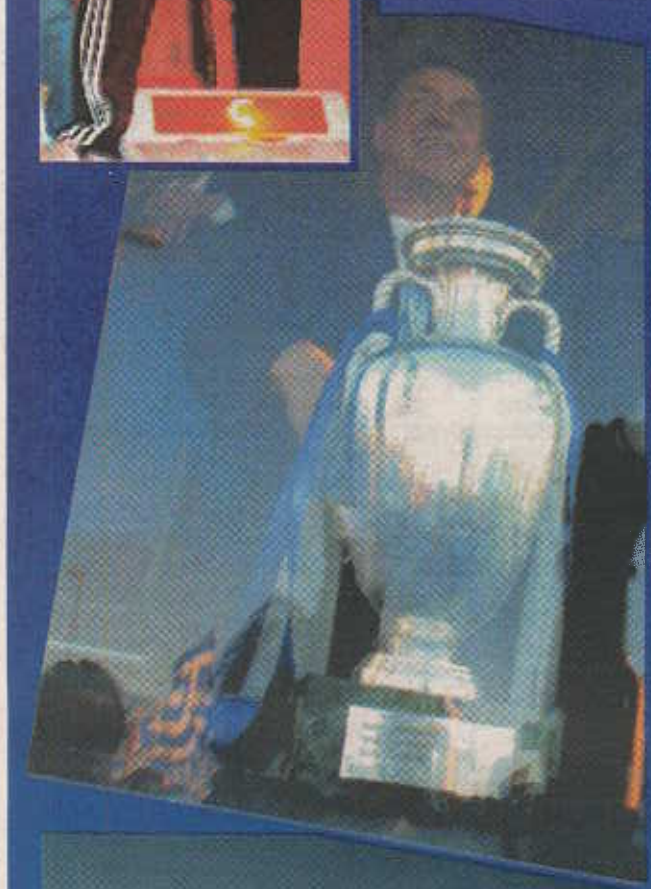
Be a self starter as the position allows the person to work from home,
Travel to Referee Branches both metropolitan and country,
Weekend work will be required,
Work closely with and take direction from the NSW State Referees Commission,
Become a member of the National Referees Coaching Panel,
Be responsible for the implementation of National Coaching programs as adopted by the NSW State Referees Commission, and
Practical Experience is essential.
This position is classified as a child related position and the successful applicant will be subject to a Working With Children Check. Persons will also be required to complete a prohibited employment declaration.
Applications, in writing, should be forwarded to:-

Mr Robert Waddell
Secretary
NSW State Referees Commission
P.O. Box 6146
BAULKHAM HILLS BUSINESS CENTRE 2153

Applications close: Friday 16 July 2004

Further information can be obtained from Robert Waddell on:
(02) 8814 4407

SOCCER WEARHOUSE

With 2004 Winter Season contact Roy or Norm at the Soccer Wearhouse for Special Prices on Bulk Orders of Patrick, Attack, Lotto, Covo and Mitre soccer balls.
Phone number (02) 8814 4437 or (02) 8814 4438

My Big Fat Greek Party